

Welcome to The Avenue Washlands Nature Reserve

Once heavily polluted as a result of its industrial past, this section of the former Avenue Coking Works now plays host to a variety of wildlife.

The nature reserve consists of 16 hectares of newly created reedbed, marsh, ponds and grassland in the valley of the River Rother. Patient observation may be rewarded with a glimpse of a water vole or great crested newt; both of these secretive species are found here.

Much more visible, however, is its bird life. During winter, species such as wigeon, teal and snipe join the resident wetland birds including mallard, lapwing and tufted duck, all of which breed at The Avenue.

The reedbed and marsh areas were created in 2005 and as they develop we hope they will encourage summer visitors such as reed warbler and sedge warbler. Elsewhere, the areas of scrub and tall vegetation attract perching birds such as willow tit, linnets and whitethroat.

Access around and through the nature reserve is largely on wheelchair-friendly surfaced paths which lead to a number of viewing screens giving views of the water and birds.

As you move around the reserve, also look out for a range of butterflies, dragonflies and other invertebrates.

Location

The main entrance is on Mill Lane, Wingerworth, grid ref SK 396670.



Parking

Roadside parking is available on Mill Lane, just past the houses. The Visitor Centre and car park is only open for groups, by prior arrangement.



Opening

The nature reserve trails and viewpoints are open at all times.

About Us

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust is the leading conservation organisation in Derbyshire with a membership of over 12,000. The Trust manages nature reserves throughout the county and also runs a variety of projects to protect and monitor Derbyshire's wildlife and habitats, including water voles, otters and grasslands. The Trust is a Registered Charity, and relies on membership, donations and grants to fund its work.

How you can help

Join Derbyshire Wildlife Trust. Children can join Wildlife Watch.

Volunteer – join the Mid Week Volunteer Team or a weekend work party on a nature reserve; help with education work, in our wildlife gift shop, represent us at events or help out in the office.

Sponsor a sheep – our own flock of sheep graze several of our nature reserves. Sponsorship helps us meet the costs of vets' bills, feed and transportation.



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Registered Charity No. 222212

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust is a company registered in England and Wales, company no 715675.

The site is owned by the Land Restoration Trust (LRT), which means the long-term future of the reserve is secure. The LRT is an organisation that takes ownership of sites, such as The Avenue, once they have been restored to green space. However to ensure the maximum benefit to the community the Trust funds partner organisations, in this case Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, who manage the site at a local level.

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust



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