

We are a charity reliant on donations. Please help us carry on this important work by making a donation or becoming a member of the Trust.

For more information or to become a member of the Trust please contact us at: Victoria Hall, 37 Stafford Road, Sheffield, S2 2SF.

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Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust is part of a national association of 47 local Wildlife Trusts, which work to protect wildlife in town and country. Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust is a registered charity, Charity no. 700638, Company No. 2287928

**By car**  
 From Rotherham Town Centre: from Westgate turn left onto Sheffield Road. At the next roundabout onto Sheffield Road A6178. At the next roundabout travel all the way round to come back onto the Sheffield Road heading to Rotherham Town Centre. Turn left onto Riverside Way (a car dealership is on the corner). The entrance to Centenary Riverside is on the left over the red bridge.

There is plenty of off road parking in Rotherham Town Centre, and there is limited street parking in Riverside Way.

**By public transport**  
 Bus numbers 69 and X78 which run between Sheffield, Meadowhall and Rotherham stop nearby. Rotherham Central Railway Station is within easy walking distance, under a mile away. Phone Travelling 01700 515151 for more details.

# Centenary Riverside

NATURE RESERVE

Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trusts

## Support us today

## How to get there



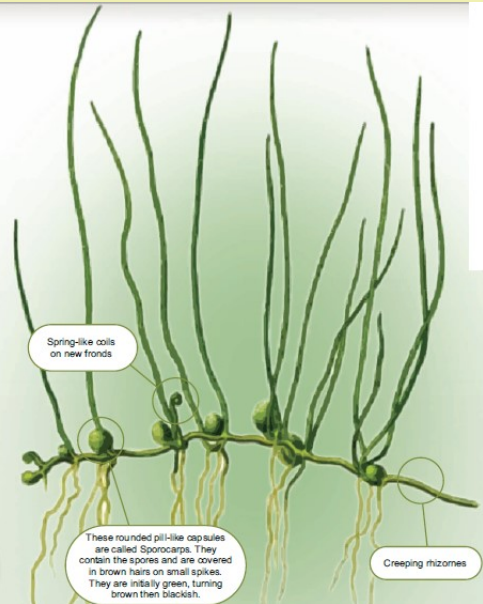
### What you will be able to find on the site?

The site consists of wet and dry woodland, wet grassland, reed bed, marshland and a small Pillwort pond. A grass and boardwalk walkway run around the site and allow you to cross the marshland. The marshland lake contains three islands which provide habitat for nesting birds. As the site matures more and more wildlife should appear.

**Wildlife**  
 For bird enthusiasts there are already Mute swans nesting and plovers at the park. Also lapwing, teal, reed bunting, common sandpiper, reed warbler, grey heron and sparrowhawk have all been spotted on site. It is hoped that more birds and other wildlife will be drawn to the site by the 3000 trees that have been planted. Otter homes (known as holts) have been built on the Magna end of the park in the hope that they will attract this native species to the Lagoon.

Pillwort (*Pilularia globulifera*)

This pond dwelling plant has been defined as an internationally threatened species in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust is re-creating suitable habitat for Pillwort here at Centenary Riverside in an attempt to prevent the extinction of Pillwort from the UK.



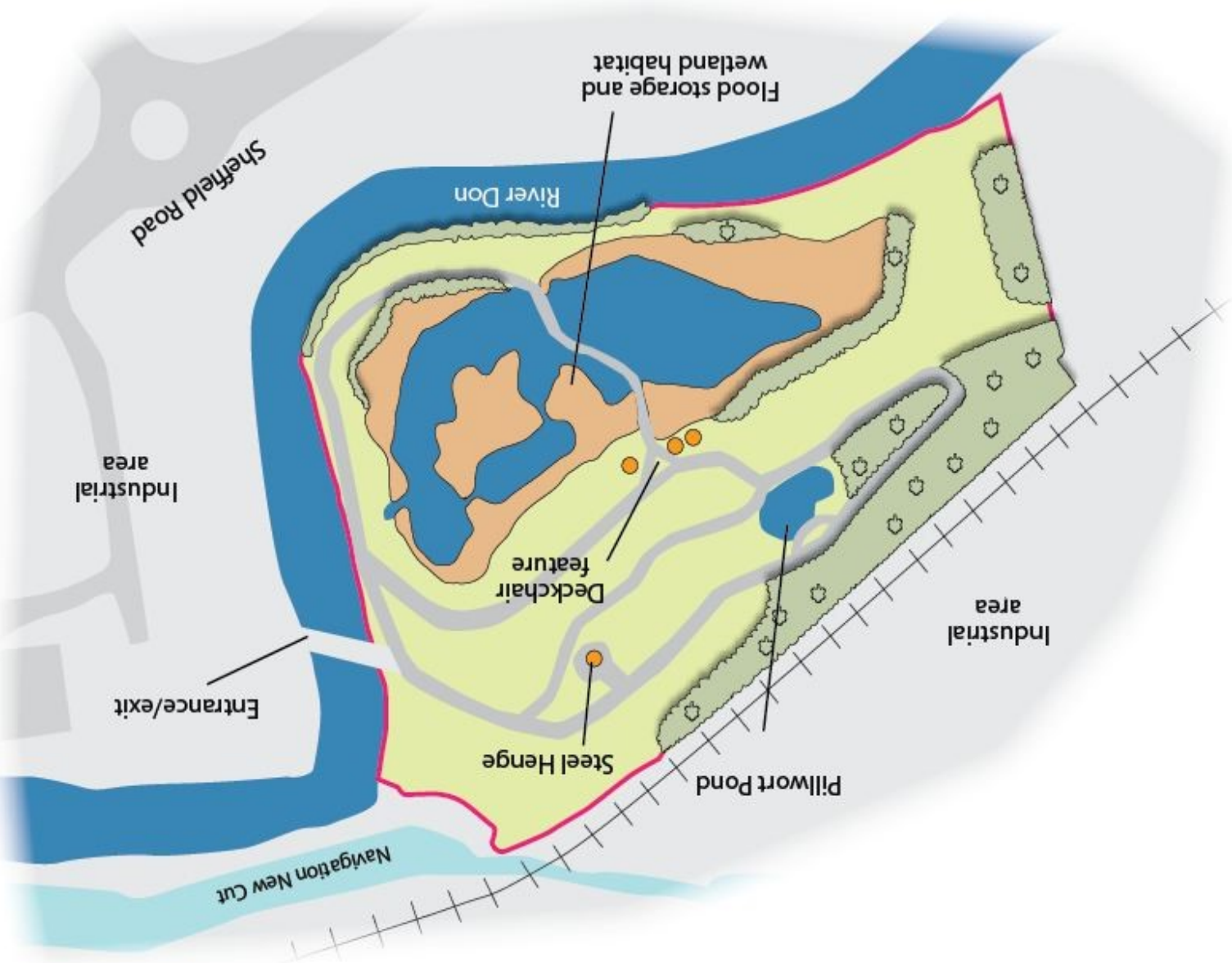
**Art and Sculptures**  
 Steel Henge – a 30m circle of amber plinths

and beams – stands on the summit of the flood defence bank. Contrary to its name, the sculpture is made of iron ore ingots which were left on the grounds after the site was no longer in use. These objects have been incorporated into the scenery as a permanent structure to remind people of the industrial significance that this site once held. Similar to its famous, stone built older cousin, it was designed to coincide with the solstice – the biannual event where the sun's movement appears to stand still before reversing. The iron tablets are precisely orientated to cast shadows along the grooves in the metal when the solstice occurs.

The embankment overlooks giant sized, wooden deck chairs which have been placed next to the lake. These have been designed to link back to Bromely Sands and promote the use of the River Don for leisure and recreational activities again.







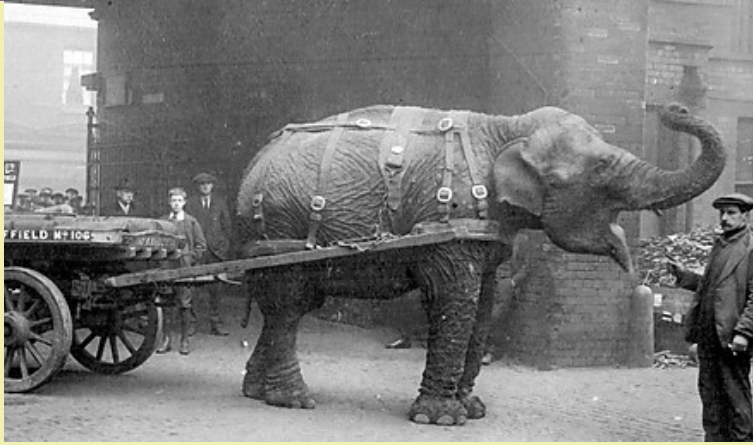
The nature reserve and adjoining paths can also be found on the Ordnance Survey Map Landranger no. 100033904. This map was based on Ordnance Survey data. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number 100033904



Picture: Lizzie McBride

**Steeling a look at the past**

Situated next to the River Don in the Templeborough district of Rotherham is the Trust's newest nature reserve. Looking out over the peaceful lagoons and meadows it is easy to imagine it has always been a beauty spot to get away from the hustle and bustle of a busy town. 150 years ago this area was called Bromely Sands, an area where cattle were grazed and the people of Rotherham came to bathe and relax on the sands of the riverside. Apart from the lack of cattle and the fact people no longer swim in the Don it seems that this area hasn't changed much!



The lagoons and banks of the Centenary Riverside reserve offer a fantastic home for wildlife, especially birds, but also form part of the £14million flood alleviation scheme along the River Don. The reserve provides a natural solution to floods, such as the ones that hit Sheffield and Rotherham in the summer of 2007, by allowing the river to spill over the banks and flood the site rather than surrounding homes and businesses. In the event of serious flooding the Centenary Riverside will help protect the people, homes and buildings of Rotherham. This provides companies that have been affected by the floods in the past with new found confidence in developing their business in the Rotherham region, whilst also helping to attract an influx of new start-up businesses to be based in Rotherham without the worry of their investments being damaged by a torrent of water.

But things are not always what they seem. In the years between Bromley Sands becoming the present day Centenary Riverside, this site was part of the steel works of Templeborough developed by the company Steel, Peech and Tozer in 1916. Before any steel works were built here archaeologists excavated the site as a Roman Fort was once situated here. A number of the artifacts discovered can now be found at Clifton Park Museum. The factory that was built acquired the nickname 'The Seven Sisters' due to its seven huge chimneys that dominated the sky. It became famous during the First and Second World Wars for producing munitions and military machinery parts.

in factories such as the Seven Sisters. To solve this problem Thomas Ward – a local businessman – enlisted the help of Lizzie, an ex-circus elephant, whose many mischievous stories of eating school boy's hats and even knocking over a traction engine are still told today.

Since the decline of the steel industry the factory works at Centenary Riverside have been dismantled but you can still see the relics from the past as the factory foundations form the lagoon islands and uncovered steel slabs have been transformed into Steelhenge.

Once again it has become a place for the people of Rotherham to relax and enjoy nature, just like Bromely Sands 150 years ago.

During the First World War there was a shortage of horses, which made it difficult to haul heavy steel loads

**Wildlife flood defence**



Picture: Helen Tylour



Picture: Lizzie McBride

