

Sunnybank Nature Reserve



From demolition to damselflies

Sunnybank is a small but popular nature reserve in south west Sheffield, 0.8 hectares in size. The site used to contain Victorian houses with mature gardens, Victorian villas and terraced houses until they were demolished in 1985 and turned into a nature reserve the same year. The reserve is now surrounded by a number of large mature trees which are over 150 years old; which creates a lovely open area. It now contains various habitats including woodland, herb-rich grassland and a wildlife pond.

Broad-bodied chaser



Watery habitats

A pond was created in 1988 and is now managed as a wildlife pond. In 2010 it was re-dug to increase the amount of open water and create a variety of deep sections and a shallow marshy area to form valuable micro habitats. The aquatic vegetation was re-planted with a larger variety of species to improve the vegetation structure and increase biodiversity.

What's around you?

The site is very close to a variety of nurseries, schools and residential areas. It is a great place for relaxing, picking blackberries, and studying.

Take a wander around and explore the reserve and you'll spot a few interesting features, such as our stag beetle and frog sculptures. Funded by Big Lottery, Award for All Project, our new frog sculpture was designed by local artist Robin Dobson and school children from Springfield

Common frog



Primary's Project Buzz. The abundance of common frogs around the site prompted the children to pick the frog as their preferred sculpture.

Many of the people who visit the site are unaware that they are passing through a nature reserve. A cycle and pedestrian route passes through the reserve creating a well used commuter route. If you have the time, take five minutes to explore the rest of the site on your way through.

Sheffield Wildlife Trust is trying to get more people interested and involved through events and local site management meetings. As the focus of community participation, the Reserve Advisory Group (RAG) is open to anyone who wants to contribute to the management of the reserve. If you are interested in finding out more please get in touch.

How to get there

By Bus

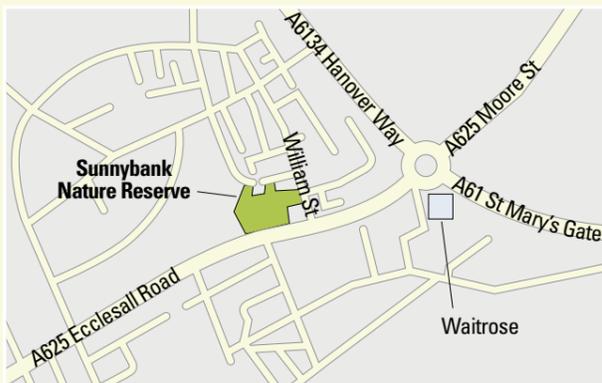
Sunnybank can be approached by various buses. There's a two-minute walk from the bus stop to the site. For up to date bus timetables, call Traveline on 01709 51 51 51 or visit www.TravelSouthyorkshire.com

On foot

Sunnybank reserve is in easy walking distance from Ecclesall Road, the centre of town and Broomhall. Entrances to the reserve can be found off Ecclesall Road, Broomhall Close and William Street.

By Car

Travelling by car from the centre of Sheffield, drive along Hanover Way heading up to Brook Hill Roundabout. Turn left onto Broom Hall Street and then look out for Broomhall Place which is another left-hand turn.



Drawing by pupil from Owlter Brook Nursery and Infant School

Sunnybank Nature Reserve is managed by The Wildlife Trust for Sheffield & Rotherham.

For more information, please contact us at:

Victoria Hall, 37 Stafford Road,
Sheffield, S2 2SF.

Tel 0114 263 4335 (Mon – Fri)

Fax 0114 263 4345

Email mail@wildsheffield.com

Web www.wildsheffield.com

The Wildlife Trust for Sheffield & Rotherham is part of a national association of 47 local Wildlife Trusts, which work to protect wildlife in town and country.

Sheffield Wildlife Trust is a registered charity, Charity no. 700638
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Sheffield & Rotherham



Smooth newt



Goldfinch



Chiffchaff



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The nature reserve is a valuable resource for all sorts of wildlife from birds and mammals to amphibians and invertebrates and is vital for many UK and locally important species, including the pipistrelle bat, song thrush and the common frog and newts. The various habitats create a tiny haven for wildlife and people right in the centre of Sheffield.

The pond supports a variety species including smooth newts, damselflies, dragonflies and common frog as well as aquatic insects such as water boatmen and pond skaters.

Feathered Friends

The patches of scrub on site are especially important for the local bird populations as a valuable source of food. Several species of birds can be found feeding and nesting on site including: blackcap, chiffchaff, greenfinch, goldfinch, song thrush and tawny owl. A standing dead wood resource is a key element for local pipistrelle bat populations.

A Living Landscape

The woodland contains a mixture of several species including rowan, black poplar, wild cherry, and beech. Beneath the canopy, the shrub layer is formed of privet and dog rose and scattered tree saplings. Sunnybank's woodland is small but it forms a link with street and garden trees to support a greater variety of wildlife. The Nature Reserve falls within the River Don corridor area of 'Living Landscape', the Wildlife Trusts' vision for connecting urban regions with surrounding countryside.

Meadow Haven

An attractive wildflower-rich spring meadow supports a variety of plants including ox-eye daisies, knapweed and cow parsley. These 'hay-meadows' are man-made features, and were sown as part of the site creation in the 1980s. They are managed as traditional hay meadows, allowing the vegetation to grow to maturity, flower and seed. They are cut every year in September and the cuttings removed to prevent the build up of nutrients on the soil. The annual hay-cut also removes the more aggressive species, allowing the more sensitive species to thrive.

The meadows have high biodiversity value and provide an important habitat for a variety of small mammals, insects and birds such as wood mice, meadow brown and painted lady butterflies and many more.

