

Hill Hook Local Nature Reserve



Birmingham & Black Country

Hill Hook Local Nature Reserve is located in Four Oaks, not far from Sutton Park. This hidden oasis of green, bordered by residential streets, is known only to those who venture on foot or attend one of the Friends of Hill Hook LNR organised events. The man made large pool originally provided water to Hill Hook Corn Mill, which operated from the mid 1600's until the mid 1900's. The Mill Pool now provides the focal point for the 7.7 hectare Local Nature Reserve, which comprises an extensive area of woodland and rough grassland providing habitat for a wide variety of plants, animals and birds.

The site includes the old, now demolished, Hill Hook Mill which operated for more than 300 years grinding corn for local residents and farmers. The first record of a miller at Hill Hook Mill was that of Oliver Cartwright in 1671. During the 1900's a pleasure ground surrounded the mill area including swings, roundabouts and afternoon tearooms!

Hill Hook LNR is made up of a very good variety of habitats with the Mill Pool, marginal vegetation, streams, wet Alder and Willow woodland and marsh, through to hedgerows, established and regenerating broadleaved woodland, scattered scrub and meadow.

The whole site is a very attractive and valuable setting which acts as a green corridor for wildlife extending from the border of South Staffordshire countryside through the residential area into the north of Birmingham.

- Woodland and Scrub
- Marsh and Swamp
- Grassland
- Amenity Grassland
- Tall Herb and Fern
- Lakes, Ponds and Streams



The Hill Hook Mill became prone to vandalism and was eventually demolished in 1970. The Birmingham City Council purchased the site in 1980 to establish a public open space and Nature Reserve. Hill Hook was declared a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) in 1990 and became a Local Nature Reserve in 2003.



Mute Swan



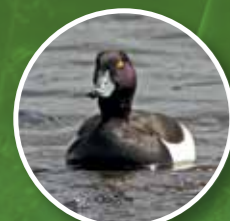
Kingfisher



Great Crested Grebe



Black-headed Gull



Tufted Duck



Goosander



Mallard



Moorhen



Coot



Grey Heron

The Friends of Hill of Hook LNR are affiliated to The Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and The Black Country. The Nature Reserve is owned by Birmingham City Council. The management of the Nature Reserve follows an ongoing management plan.