

Introduction to the Pack

This pack has been produced by Rosalind Allen, Enviro-Learn (and previously of Groundwork Derby & Derbyshire), for use by young people's organisations and schools wishing to undertake educational visits to Sinfin Moor Park and Nature Reserve. Many of the activities are well known, whereas others have been developed specifically for use at the site. Taster sessions during 2012 enabled most of these new activities to be tested, evaluated and amended as appropriate.

Project Partners

The production of this pack was funded by an Awards for All grant from The Big Lottery (through the Friends of Sinfin Moor Park Local Nature Reserve) with the support of Derby City Council.

Content of the Booklet:

Site information:

An introduction to Sinfin Moor Park Local Nature Reserve, including location, site description, educational potential, history, use of the site, ecology and site management.



Activity Sheets

There are around 30 activity sheets designed to help teachers discover and lead environmental activities at Sinfin Moor Park Local Nature Reserve. Most activities are designed for outdoor delivery, but a few are more appropriate for an indoor setting, either linked to or independent of a park visit.

The folder for this pack simply unclips for the desired activity sheet to be temporarily removed for easy photocopying. This should help to prevent the master copy being lost.

There are three main groups of activities:

TRAILS AND MAPPING

A series of activities that encourage exploration of the site, including orienteering and looking at habitats, plants, human impact and history. Many of the other activities (below) can be integrated into these trails, allowing fuller investigation and an action-packed visit.

WILDLIFE

Natural habitats to be investigated at Sinfin Moor Park Local Nature Reserve include wetland, woodland and meadow. Activities in this section provide step-by-step instructions on how to discover some of the creatures living in them. There are also activities to encourage the children to consider the roles of different organisms and the interactions between them, along with ideas for environmental crafts and games.

SENSORY ACTIVITIES

A series of fairly short activities encouraging children to use their senses (sight, touch, hearing and smell) to more fully appreciate their environment. They can also be linked with different animals and their need for a particularly strong sense for e.g. hunting, awareness of predators, etc. It is hoped that such activities will provide stimuli for follow-up creative writing.

TREE ACTIVITIES

Another series of short activities which, if linked with the Tree Trail, will create an interesting themed session.



Health and Safety Information

A summary of the main precautions which may be appropriate during a school visit to the site. Generic risk assessments and local reviews are also included.

Appendices

There are a number of appendices in the back of this folder, consisting of labelled plastic pockets containing resources for use during or after visits. Some of these relate specifically to the activity sheets in the main pack. The appendices are summarised in the Pack Contents, whilst further details of appendices are detailed on page 106-107 of this booklet.

An activity trail map has been created for Sinfin Moor Park Local Nature Reserve. This gives suggested locations for most of the activities. This should enable a trail of chosen activities to be made around the site.

Introduction to Sinfin Moor Park Local Nature Reserve

Location:

See Appendix 1: Location Map.

Sinfin Moor Park Local Nature Reserve is situated on the southern edge of Derby (grid reference SK 350 313). By car, it is best accessed from Sinfin Lane, where there is a good sized car park, whilst the surfaced footpath from Sinfin District Centre provides convenient access for those walking from that direction.



Site Description and Educational Potential

Sinfin Moor Park Local Nature Reserve is a 38 hectare site comprised of the wildlife sites and adjoining playing fields between the suburbs of Sinfin and Chellaston. The site is about 45 metres above sea level and has an underlying geology of glacial lacustrine clay overlying Keuper Marl. Therefore the site is poorly drained and prone to seasonal flooding after prolonged rainfall and supports a number of ephemeral ponds (that is, they often dry up in the summer). Other habitats include a range of different types of grassland, mature and young hedges and copses of trees and shrubs.

The mainly arable agricultural land to the south and east of the site gives a country park feel, whilst a municipal golf course, some housing and a school border onto the park to the north and west.



This range of habitats provides a wide selection of educational activities, from habitat comparison to sensory and tree activities. The contrasting environments and varied uses of the park also provide stimuli for activities relating to change of land-use and balancing user-group interests with conserving and encouraging wildlife.



Ownership:

Derby City Council owns Sinfin Moor Park and Nature Reserve. In addition, Rolls-Royce owns two of the fields within the Nature Reserve area.

History and Use of the Site:

It is believed that the site was a swampy area in pre-historic times, and its poor peaty soils and generally wet character later led to its being named 'Sinfin Moor'. In the 1700s the moor was used as a racecourse, whilst in 1745 Bonnie Prince Charlie sent an advance party across Sinfin Moor from Derby to Swarkestone Bridge. By 1857, Sinfin Moor consisted of 2 farms and 5 cottages. The land was owned by Sir John Harpur Crewe, the 10th Baronet of Calke Abbey. The north-eastern part of the site, which is now playing fields with areas of tree planting and tall grassland, was built in the 1980s on a former waste tip which was then landscaped.



There are also links with the Second World War and the attempted bombing of Rolls-Royce.

The History Trail Activity contains more information on all of the above.

Ecology:

Sinfin Moor Park and Nature Reserve has four main types of habitats:

- Grasslands (comprising tall rank grassland/tall herb, scrub-invaded grassland, wet grassland, reseeded wildflower grassland, agricultural silage meadows, neutral grassland, amenity grassland);
- Wetland (consisting of ponds, tall herb fen, streams and ditches);
- Hedgerows (mature and more recently planted);
- Trees/woodland (mainly small areas of copse and shelter belts, along with some 'parkland' trees in mown grass).



Further information about the wildlife on the site is detailed in the management plan, which can be downloaded from Derby City Council's website:

<http://www.derby.gov.uk/media/derbycitycouncil/contentassets/documents/wildderby/naturereserves/DerbyCityCouncil-SMPMP.pdf>



Management:

The site is maintained by Derby City Council. In addition there is a very active friends group that assists with practical tasks on site and runs community engagement activities including a children's nature club and a cafe.

