

Pelaw Quarry Pond is a fantastic new site where you can discover amazing wildlife for free!

Mill Lane

Cock Crow Inn



Entrance to the Reserve

Scrub

As you enter the reserve, you will see a lot of thick bushes around the edges of the pond and alongside the paths. The thorny branches of blackthorns, dog rose and brambles may seem uninviting to us, but migrating birds such as willow warblers, chiffchaffs and black caps love them. They visit the reserve in summer, filling the bushes with their cheery songs.

Woodland

Most of the trees lose their leaves in autumn – see how many different colours you can find on the ground. In winter, bright red hawthorn and rowan berries provide food for birds. Hazel nuts are also an important food for small mammals such as the wood mouse and bank vole. If you come down to the woods at dusk, you might be lucky enough to spot bats, owls and foxes, which come out to hunt for food at night.

Bulrushes

Bulrushes, a common grass-like plant on the edge of the pond and ditch can grow to be up to three metres high. The brown flower gives the bulrush its other common name, the 'cats tail'. This plant has many uses, including thatching, weaving, making paper and medicine. Bulrushes also attract a variety of insects - look out for the brilliant colours of damselflies and dragonflies as they hover and dart between the reeds

Pond

The pond and islands provide food, shelter and nesting sites for wildfowl and wetland birds. Many of these, including mute swan, coot, mallard and grey heron are here at the reserve all year round. During the summer, swallows and swifts use the pond as a feeding area, swooping to catch midges and flies. If you are lucky you may catch a glimpse of a kingfisher diving for minnows. There are other fish too such as perch which can be seen in shallow waters at the edge of the pond.

Wildlife Corridor

Wildlife corridors, like this ditch, provide important links between habitats for small mammals and amphibians such as the smooth newt to pass along. You may not be able to see them, but listen for frogs croaking, and look out for frogspawn in spring – please don't collect it though! This area is also ideal for water vole, one of the rarest mammals in the UK.

Wildflower meadow

The meadow has a range of grasses and colourful wildflowers. In spring, cowslips are one of the first to flower here, followed by the locally rare bee orchid and delicate fairy flax which bloom in the summer. There are common plants too, like the dandelion and its look-alike, the common cat's-ear - can you spot the difference? On sunny days the nectar rich flowers attract butterflies – look out for the common blue, whose caterpillars feed on the yellow bird's foot trefoil. Some butterflies found at the reserve, such as the small skipper, are uncommon in northeast England.

Marshland

This area, with its rushes and reeds, is home to wetland birds such as reed bunting, teal and snipe. Snipe are so well camouflaged they are difficult to see until startled - when they fly away in fast zig-zags. The marsh supports a variety of plants including the locally rare marsh foxtail, and the false fox sedge. In summer the yellow flag iris and purple northern marsh orchid bring splashes of colour to the wet ground.

Quarry Pond

Today, the pond, surrounding grassland and woodland are home to a wealth of animals, plants and insects. In recognition of its importance for both people and wildlife, Pelaw Quarry Pond has been declared a Local Nature Reserve, which means it can be enjoyed by everyone for years to come.



Common Frog



Fox



Common Blue



Young people from St. Joseph's RC Comprehensive School learning about the reserve with Gateshead Council's Community Wildlife Officer.

This leaflet was prepared as part of a joint 'Citizenship' collaboration between young people from St. Joseph's RC Comprehensive School, Akzo Nobel Powder Coatings (Felling, Gateshead), Newcastle University, and Gateshead Council. Illustrations by Rachel Edwards, design and text by Joanna Stockill. Photography courtesy of Darin Smith and Durham Wildlife Trust. The leaflet has been funded under Akzo Nobel's Corporate Social Responsibility initiative, with additional support from the Esmée Fairburn Foundation.

How to find Pelaw Quarry Pond LNR

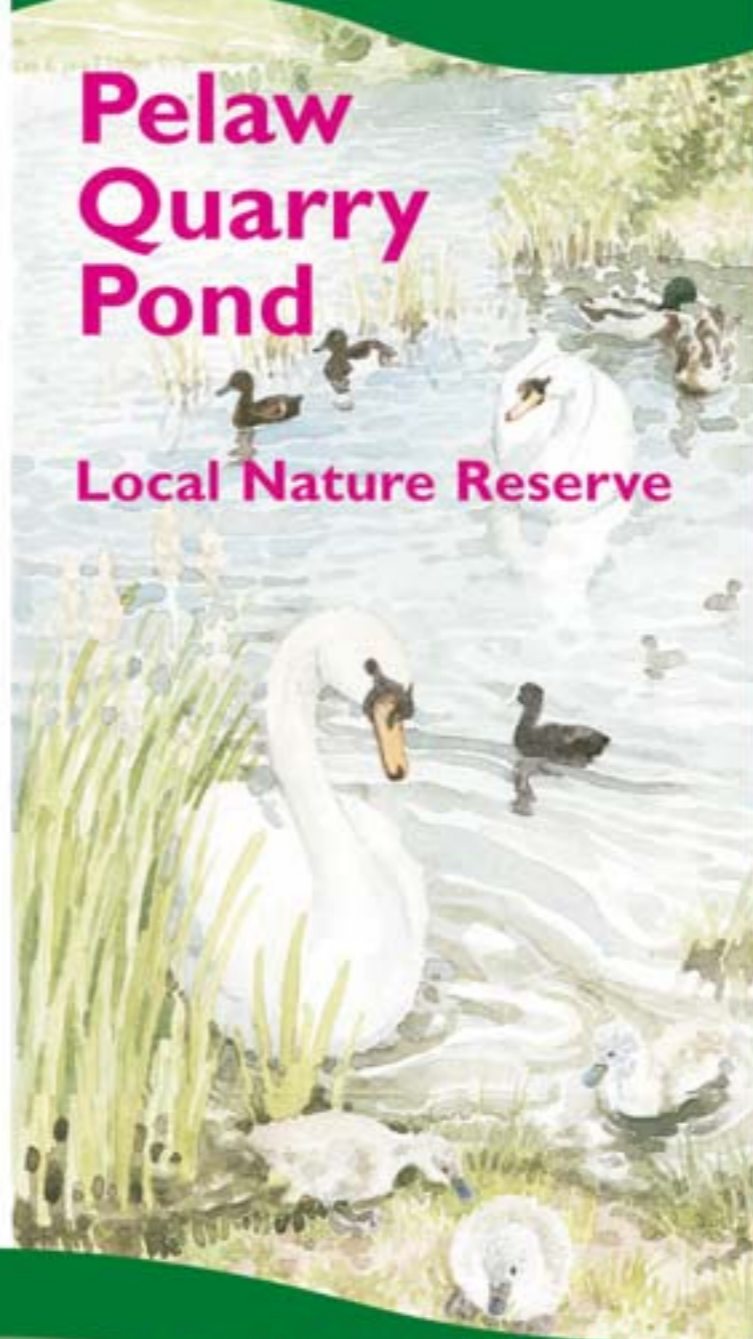


the environment

OUR JOINT RESPONSIBILITY

Pelaw Quarry Pond

Local Nature Reserve



Welcome to Pelaw

Pelaw Quarry Pond was formerly the site of the Jones Brothers Brickworks, established in 1895. In its heyday the brickworks was the largest manufacturer of high quality bricks in the northeast, producing over 40,000 a day. Clay and shale were extracted from the large quarry pit, which was later flooded creating a pond.



Reed Bunting



Northern Marsh Orchid



Common Darter

^ place for people and wildlife