

Owlthorpe Heritage & Nature Trail

The award winning Owlthorpe Heritage & Nature Trail is a rural oasis in the urban southeast of Sheffield, England's fourth largest city.



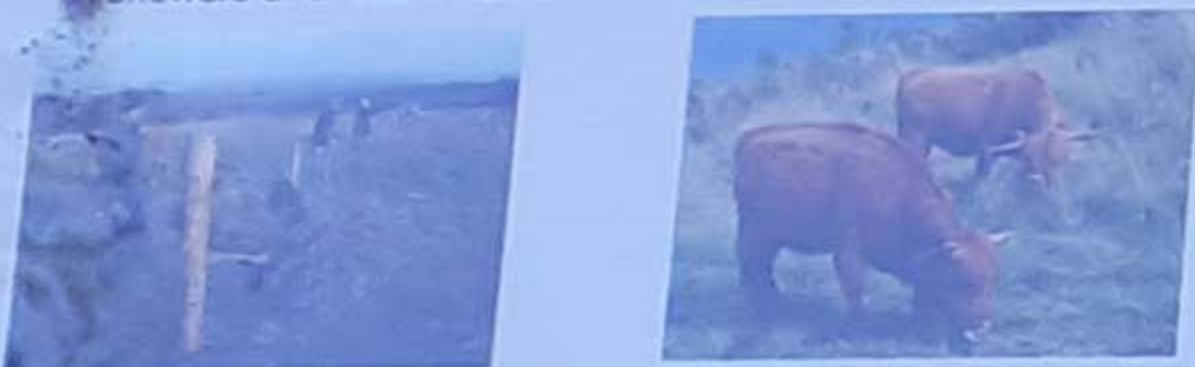
The Trail was opened with an official event on March 16, 2012 by children from three local primary schools assisted by (left to right) David Caulfield - Sheffield City Council Officer, Clive Betts MP for Sheffield South East and Sheffield City Councillor Helen Mirfin-Boukouris

The significant environmental improvements made in creating the Trail include:

1.3 kilometres of new surfaced path created as part of the Trail



22 acres of land fenced and grassland brought back under management using grazing by Highland Cattle to benefit wildflowers and local wildlife



The land management is taking place under the monitoring of Natural England by their Higher Level Stewardship Scheme.

12,243 trees & hedgerow plants planted also 64,000 bulbs & 1,500 square metres of wildflowers seed sown.



Map Legend

You are here ●
Trail - - - - -

Owlthorpe Grazing Project:
No. 1 Phase 1
No. 1A Phase 1A
No. 2 Phase 2

- No. 3 Moor Valley (A616)
- No. 4 Donetsk Way (A57)
- Supertram Station
- No. 5 Moss Way
- No. 6 Moorhole Lane
- No. 7 Ochre Dyke
- No. 8 Hanging Lea Wood
- No. 9 Westfield Plantation
- No. 10 Owlthorpe Forest Setting
- No. 11 Owlthorpe Wild Orchard
- No. 12 Owlthorpe Wetland
- No. 13 Owlthorpe Medical Centre
- No. 14 3-Way Stone Stile
- No. 15 Bridle Way

Eco Surveys

A number of biological surveys have been carried out over the years in Owlthorpe by the Ecology Department of Sheffield City Council to establish the levels of Fauna and Flora that exists in the area. These records of 843 species have been added to the Biological Records Centre RECORDER database.

The following lists give an indication of the biological diversity of species including Ancient Woodland Indicators that can be seen on the Trail are as follows:

- Vertebrates** 96 species in total
- 78 species of Birds
- 16 species of Mammals
- 1 species each of Amphibian & Reptile
- Invertebrates** 295 species in total
- including 95 species of Butterflies & Moths
- Flora** 452 species in total

New species are being added to the list as they are found. In the first two months of 2017 the following new species were discovered:

- The mammal Harvest Mouse - *Micromys minutus*,
- The fungus King Alfred's Cake - *Daldinia concentrica*
- The bird Yellow-browed Warbler - *Phylloscopus inornatus* (Rare Species)



7-Spot Ladybird



Wild Orchid



Harvest Mouse Nest



King Alfred's Cake Fungus

Moorhole Lane Trail Entrance

795 local school children have been involved in the project that provides environmental education to raise awareness and enjoyment of the local country side. Unique historic 3-way stone stile locally listed



New wetland created & large scale litter clearances undertaken



New wooden footbridge installed across the Ochre Dyke & New wooden steps installed



165 meters of drystone wall restored & 800 metres of old hedgerow traditionally laid to conserve historic boundaries.



Wild orchard created using trees grafted, by local volunteers, with stock from the ancient orchard at Beighton. Regular public walks and practical conservation skills training.

