

Sites of wildlife interest



Key to all site maps on following pages

-  Public paths/sculpture
-  Open space
-  Restricted open space
-  Woodland
-  Urban/industrial areas
-  Agricultural areas
-  Beach
-  Rocky shoreline

3 Primrose Local Nature Reserve

Wetlands are a rare and diminishing habitat. Here at Primrose, in the heart of Jarrow, the Council has worked with local people for over a decade to create a beautiful and valuable little wildlife site, which greatly enhances the River Don Valley.

The Nature Reserve was created in 1990 by excavating a series of ponds and ditches where there had previously been amenity grassland, prone to occasional flooding. Planting them up resulted in a mosaic of marsh and open water habitats, which offers shelter and sustenance to a wide range of wetland wildlife.

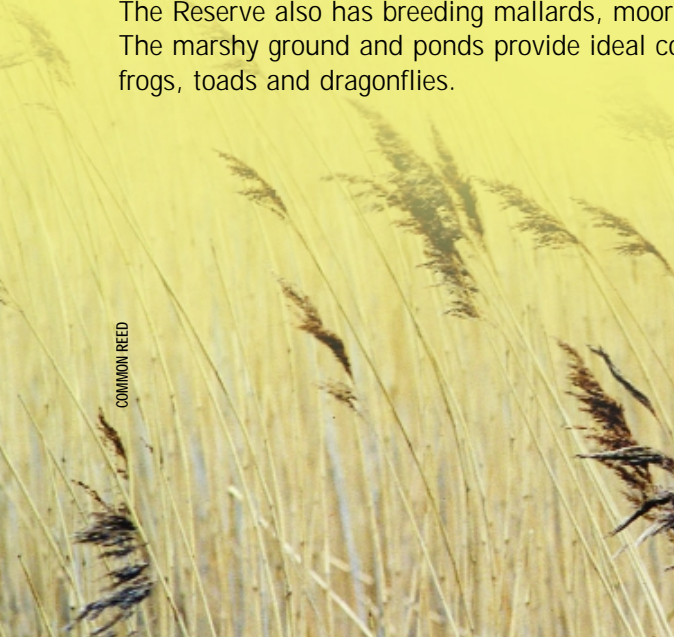
During the summer many attractive flowers can be seen, such as yellow iris, meadowsweet, wild angelica and purple loosestrife. Though perhaps the most striking plant is the common reed, which grows to over three metres tall, and is still used in southern England for thatching roofs.

The reedbed, the largest in the Borough, is home to our only pair of reed warblers. They have a comparable song to that of the sedge warbler, though slightly softer. Also, they lack the sedge warbler's distinctive pale eye stripe.

The Reserve also has breeding mallards, moorhens and coots. The marshy ground and ponds provide ideal conditions for many frogs, toads and dragonflies.



MOORHEN



COMMON REED



ACCESS

Good views can be had from a 20 minute circular walk which overlooks the reserve and forms part of the River Don path. All the paths are level and are surfaced with tarmac except for one section of high quality boardwalk.

TRANSPORT

Fellgate Metro station is a 20 minute walk away, along the Calf Close Burn path. There is a regular bus service along Springwell Road (nos 522 and 538).

RIVER DON PATH
LEAM LANE
400 metres