



Explore the Museum

The National Coal Mining Museum for England is set on a large site across two former coal mines: Caphouse Colliery and Hope Pit. Most of the galleries are based at Caphouse. There are so many things to see and do, which will excite your pupil's curiosity and fuel learning across the curriculum.

Caphouse Colliery buildings

Our historic Caphouse site dates back to the late 1790s and many of the original pit buildings are open for you to explore.

Weighbridge

This is where the lorries carrying coal were weighed before transporting the coal. The weighbridge was probably installed in the 1940s when the pit changed from using rail to road for transport.

Coal-screening plant (restricted access)

The largest building on the site was where the coal was sorted from stone, and where coal was sorted into sizes before being sent to market by rail, and later by lorry.

Steam winding engine house

Dating back to 1876, this is one of the oldest surviving buildings on site. It was installed by Emma Lister Kaye and you can still see her initials on the date stone.

Control room

The 1980s nerve centre of the pit, which coordinated all underground work.

Stable Yard

Visit the stables to meet the ponies and find out how horses and ponies were used through coal mining history.

Pithead Baths, Wages Office and Medical Centre

The Caphouse baths were opened in 1938. Linked to the wages office, this was where working miners started and ended their working day. The Medical Centre offers a glimpse of the important work done by the pit nurse.

Drift Mouth

During the later part of its history, coal at Caphouse was brought out of the drift mouth. Follow the conveyors across the site to the coal-screening plant where the coal was sorted.

Galleries and exhibitions

1842 Gallery - Explore the working conditions and lives of the women and children who worked underground in the early 19th century before the 1842 Coal Mines Act changed their lives.

Mining Lives gallery – What is a gala? How did miners act to change their working conditions? Where did miners live? Explore interactive displays to find out about home and community, sports and leisure, disasters and strikes. Look out for the **Art Cart** stocked with drawing materials.

Coal Interface Gallery – How did miners solve problems? What machines did they use? How was coal transported? Get up close to the Museum's technology collection and find out how inventions through time have made miners' working lives safer and more efficient.

Special exhibitions - Our changing special exhibitions programme means there is always something new to discover. For current exhibitions please see the [Museum website](#).

Library

The Museum's research library holds a wealth of information on the history of coal mining in England. Speak to one of our qualified librarians about using this important resource.

Hope Pit and the Nature Trail

Hope Pit is a smaller colliery dating back to the 1830s, which was once linked to Caphouse. The original colliery buildings have interactive displays, which explore the science of mining.

Inman Shaft house

This building once housed a beam engine for pumping water from the mine workings.

Electric winding house

The electric winding engine housed here wound men up and down the shaft from the 1920s until 1985. Look out for the virtual guide!

Compressor house

Find out how compressed air was used to power machines and lighting safely in gassy seams.

Fan house

This building focuses on the importance of ventilation in the mine.

Colliery workshop

The one-time joiners' shop and saw-mill was where repairs and maintenance took place on site. This building is also home to the blacksmith's workshop and the machines worked by belts powered by line shafting.

Hope Store (restricted access)

A purpose-built museum store houses large objects. This building is sometimes opened for school activities, but visitors can use the new walk-through to peek through at some of the machines and vehicles kept here.

Nature Trail and water treatment plant

Follow the half-mile Nature Trail and see how an old colliery spoilt tip now creates a lush habitat for wildlife, plants and trees. Amaze your pupils with a trip to the reed beds to see how the Museum cleans the bright orange iron-rich mine water pumped from underground. The water is passed through a series of settling ponds and reed beds before flowing into the stream on its way to the River Calder.