



Every Visit is a New Adventure!

There's lots of reasons to visit our brilliant nature trail, why not try...



Muddy Boots

Our monthly outdoor sessions for under-5s every Saturday through Spring & Summer, where little visitors can explore the area, play games, and enjoy story time in the great outdoors.

Seasonal Scavenger Hunts

Visit our regular seasonal scavenger hunts on the nature trail, providing fun and interesting activities for children.

You can also try a whole host of fascinating walks

- Reed Bed Tours • Heritage Walks • Pit Poetry Walks
- Wellbeing Wanders • 'Meet the Trees' Walks



To find out more about all of our exhibitions, events and activities visit: www.ncm.org.uk

**NATIONAL
COAL MINING
MUSEUM**



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Meet our playful & fun-loving ponies

Come and meet our playful and fun-loving ponies Bud, Eric and Ernie, as well as our Clydesdale Finn in our Pony Discovery Centre. Find out about the history of Pit Ponies and their vital role in coal mining history. Meet with our expert horsekeepers who can tell you all about our ponies with regular horse keeper talks and feeding sessions.

📍 Pony Discovery Centre

⚠️ Features lights which constantly change colour

Explore with our Nature Back Packs

Equip young explorers with one of our nature backpacks. These specially designed backpacks have everything needed for an outdoor adventure. They come packed with essential tools like magnifying glasses, bug jars, insect identifiers, perfect for discovering the wonders of local habitats. Children can explore our nature trail in a whole new way, learning about the diverse flowers and shrubs that thrive in the area.

Choose from Marvellous Minibeasts, Brilliant Birds, Treemendous Trees or Watery Wildlife. Come back and use all four backpacks to complete a collectible puzzle! Free (£10 deposit required). Grab a backpack and let curiosity lead the way! Collect from Visitor Reception.

📍 Free (£10 deposit required)



Let off steam in the Adventure Playground

Younger visitors can let off steam in our amazing adventure playground. This incredible outdoor space features towers with large slides, and an exciting zip wire to speed along. With plenty of activity-based equipment, children of all ages can enjoy hours of fun. The adventure playground offers a safe and exciting environment for kids of all ages to explore and play.

Enjoy nature in the Bird Hides

Experience the peace, tranquillity and beauty of nature in our recently restored bird hides. Why not pick up a bird backpack from the Hub with a guide and binoculars, and start your bird watching experience!



Whether you're a seasoned birdwatcher or an interested visitor, the bird hides offer a peaceful retreat to observe local wildlife in their natural habitat. They regularly host interesting nature themed activities for all the family.

📍 The Hub (bird backpack, guide & binoculars)



Stop for a snack in the Picnic Areas

Enjoy a delightful outdoor eating experience at one of our many scenic picnic areas. The pretty picnic spots offer plenty of tables with stunning views of the historic pit wheel. Whether you're taking a break from exploring the museum or simply soaking up the spectacular surroundings, the picnic areas provide a perfect setting for a relaxing meal. They are a wonderful way to unwind and enjoy the beauty of the museum's outdoor spaces.

Discover what makes trees unique

Our outdoor spaces are home to a diverse array of trees, each contributing to the natural beauty and historical significance of the site. From majestic oaks and sturdy alders to delicate birches and vibrant larches, these trees create a beautiful setting to explore.

Our tree trail tells the special story of all the species and how they link to our important coal mining history. Whether you're taking a gentle stroll or coming along on a guided walk, the trees provide a peaceful backdrop for your visit.



Time to reflect in our Memorial Garden

On your travels around the museum, why not stop a while at our Memorial Garden, a serene space dedicated to celebrating the courage and camaraderie of miners and their communities. This tranquil spot offers a place for quiet contemplation and reflection. At its heart stands the striking 'Lives Lived, Lives Lost' sculpture, a poignant reminder of the lives touched by mining.

Come and explore our stunning nature trail where the natural environment has gracefully reclaimed the industrial landscape, transforming it into a place where beauty blooms.

This stunning walk is packed with interesting natural habitats, vibrant plants and flowers, and wondrous wildlife. Along the way, you'll find spots to sit and relax, areas to play, and opportunities to learn about the rich history of coal mining. Whether you're looking to unwind in nature or learn about the links between nature and mining, there's so many things to see and do on your journey!

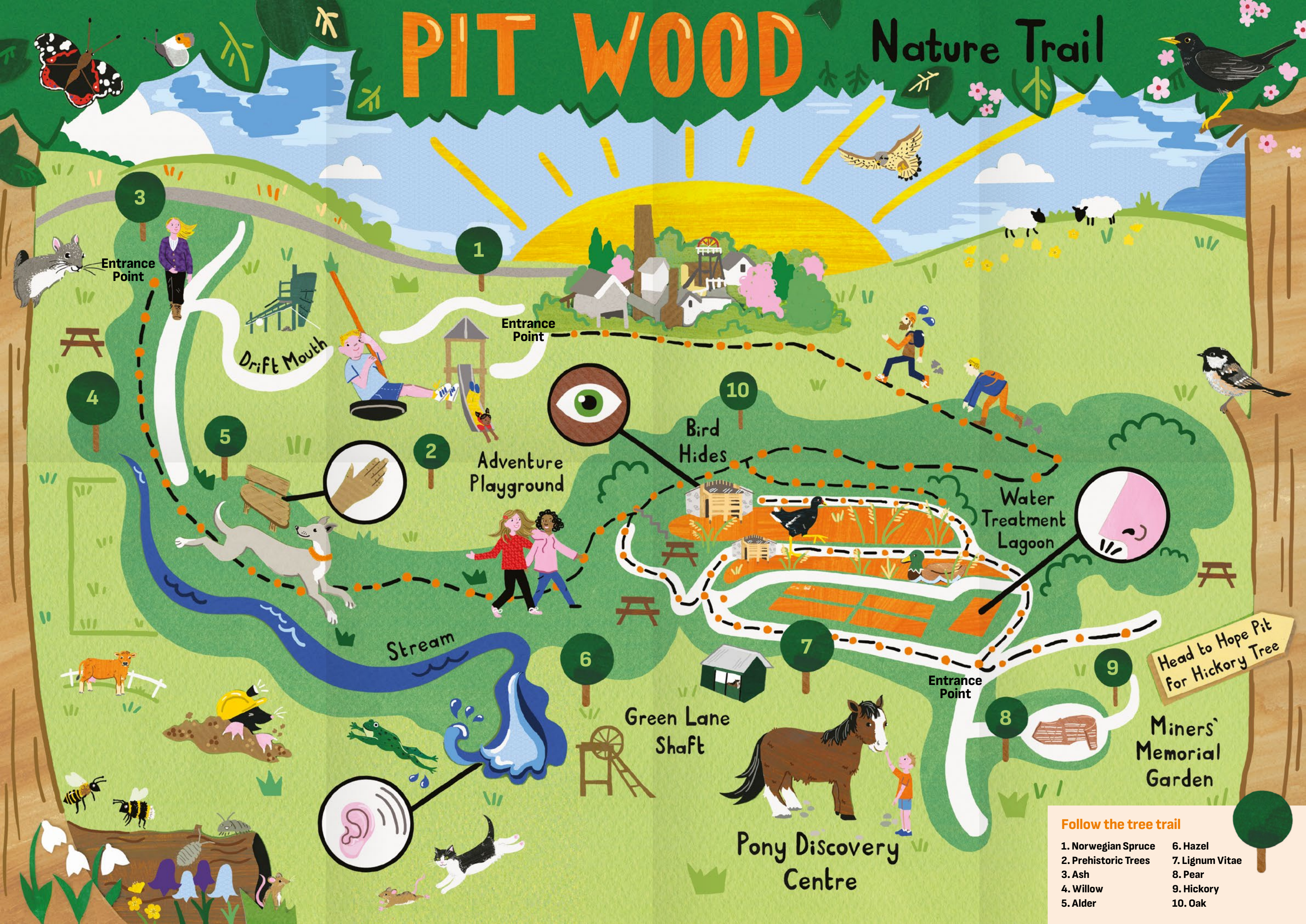
Accessibility

While some sections of our nature trail have an incline and can become muddy during winter months, making them inaccessible for wheelchairs or larger buggies, the trail offers numerous sensory spots where you can engage with nature through sound, smell, and touch. These interactive elements provide a rich, immersive experience, making the trail a delightful adventure. Remember to wear suitable footwear and enjoy the beauty and tranquillity of the museum's natural surroundings.



PIT WOOD

Nature Trail



Follow the tree trail

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Norwegian Spruce | 6. Hazel |
| 2. Prehistoric Trees | 7. Lignum Vitae |
| 3. Ash | 8. Pear |
| 4. Willow | 9. Hickory |
| 5. Alder | 10. Oak |