

A reclaimed colliery site with a wide variety of habitats including woodland, ponds, species rich grasslands and scrub showing good examples of succession on colliery shales.



Malton pond



Great Crested Newt

Burnet Moth



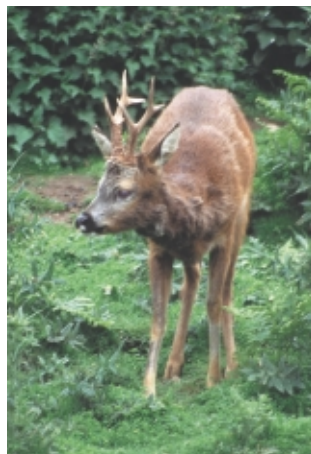
The site was reclaimed in 1985 by Durham County Council and Durham Wildlife Trust protecting existing habitats and creating new ones. Two new ponds were dug to replace the original pit pond and these have matured and now attract all 5 amphibian species found in the County as well as several species of dragonfly including Common Darter and Southern Hawker and the uncommon Bulrush Wainscot Moth living in the stems of Reedmace. Adjacent Willow Carr provides shelter for a variety of birds including Woodcock, several uncommon plants such as Skullcap and the uncommon Lunar Hornet Clearwing Moth.

Areas of colliery shale have been retained and these contain patches of lichen heath. There are several small species rich meadows containing Bird's-foot Trefoil, Devils-bit Scabious and Tormenil. This mosaic of open habitats provide conditions suitable for a large range of butterflies such as Dingy Skipper, Common Blue and Small Copper, 5 and 6 spot Burnet Moths and an impressive range of notable invertebrate species uncommon in the region.

An old hedgerow and area of oak woodland contain plants indicative of ancient woodland such as Moschatel and Dog's Mercury and regular breeding birds include Tawny Owl and Green Woodpecker. Mammalian visitors include Fox, Roe Deer and Badgers.

Several garden escapees can be seen in the southeastern side of the site in an area formerly occupied by Malton School.

**Best seen – April to June for amphibians, June/July for meadow flora and butterflies**



Roe Deer

Lunar Hornet Clearwing







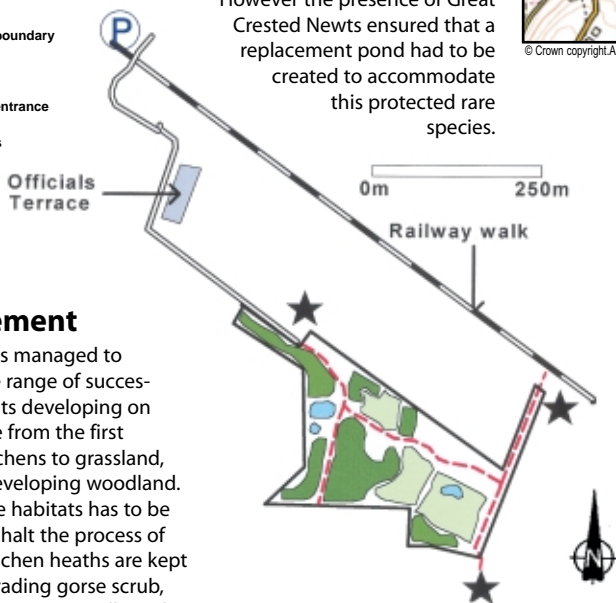
# MALTON



Malton Colliery

The original pond was used as a reservoir for the old Malton Colliery, which was to be filled in as part of the restoration. However the presence of Great Crested Newts ensured that a replacement pond had to be created to accommodate this protected rare species.

-  Reserve boundary
-  Parking
-  Reserve entrance
-  Footpaths



## Management

The reserve is managed to maintain the range of successional habitats developing on colliery shale from the first colonising lichens to grassland, scrub and developing woodland. Each of these habitats has to be managed to halt the process of succession; lichen heaths are kept free from invading gorse scrub, grasslands are cut annually and scrub is controlled to prevent it developing into woodland.

Badger



Red Admiral

## Location

The reserve is just off the A691 Durham to Consett road 1 mile east of Lanchester. Follow the signpost for Malton Picnic area where parking is available. The reserve can then be approached on foot via Officials Terrace or via the Lanchester Valley Walkway along the disused railway line. The circular walk is about 1.5km.



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## General Information

### Ownership:

Leased from Durham County Council

**Area:** 4.5 hectares

### Grid Reference:

NZ 180460

**O.S. Explorer Map No:** 307

### Parking access to site:

Park in Malton Picnic Area Car Park ½ mile east of reserve.

### Public transport:

Regular bus service from Durham to Consett

**Dogs:** Dogs must be kept under control at all times

**Accessibility:** ▲▲▲▲

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