

Upper Ball Grove wildlife

For an area of just over two hectares, Upper Ball Grove supports a good diversity of habitat types including: broadleaved trees; scrub; grassland; swamp; standing water; running water; ephemeral/short perennial; introduced shrub; boundary hedges; earth bank and bare ground.



A total of 150 plant species were recorded by the Wildlife Trust in August 2003. This includes 23 grasses, 11 sedges/rushes/ferns/bulrushes, six horsetails & pondweeds, 31 trees and shrubs and 79 herbaceous plants.

Areas of species-rich grassland are present on the slope overlooking the lodge and species include knapweed, greater bird's-foot-trefoil, marsh thistle, cuckooflower, angelica, meadowsweet, tormentil, glaucous sedge, tufted vetch, meadow vetchling, self-heal and greater burnet saxifrage. The south-facing slope also supports groups of trees and shrubs. Scrub species in particular raspberry, rose, hawthorn and bramble are spreading into the grassland areas.



Leaches and stickleback occur in the leat. The lodge itself has bulrush, floating sweet-grass, spike-rush, yellow flag iris, reed canary-grass and amphibious bistort.

Areas of tall ruderal vegetation are also present around the site and are dominated by creeping thistle, great willowherb, rosebay willowherb and meadowsweet with some common hogweed and angelica also present. These areas provide valuable sources of nectar for many invertebrates as well as seeds for birds and over-wintering sites.



A number of birds visit the site including species associated with watercourses, grassland, woodland and scrub. The list includes Birds of Conservation Concern such as bullfinch, kingfisher, swallow, sand martin, house sparrow, lapwing, starling, mistle thrush and song thrush. Other animals present include roe deer, brown hare and common mole.

For details of other attractions, accommodation and nature reserves in Pendle contact:

Discover Pendle

Boundary Mill

Vivary Way, Colne, BB8 9NW

Tel: (01282) 856186

Email: discoverpendle@pendle.gov.uk



If you would like this information in a way which is better for you, please telephone us.

اگر آپ یہ معلومات کسی ایسی شکل میں چاہتے ہیں، جو کہ آپ کے لئے زیادہ مفید ہو تو برائے مہربانی ہمیں ٹیلیفون کریں۔



Putting people first



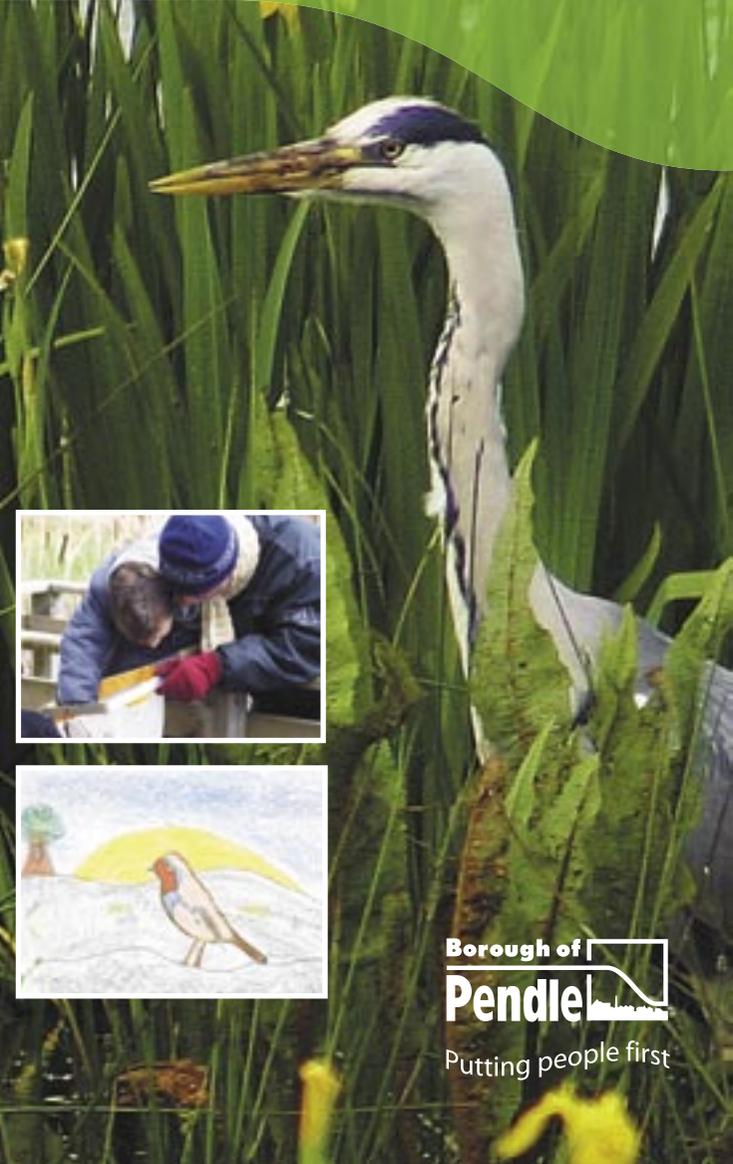
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Cohesive and resilient communities



The drawings in this leaflet are by pupils from Christ Church CE Primary School.
Graphic design by The Communications Team, Pendle Borough Council IJb_2695 04/09

Ball Grove

Picnic Site and Upper Ball Grove Local Nature Reserve



Putting people first

History of Ball Grove

What is now Ball Grove Park and Local Nature Reserve (LNR) was once the site of one of the largest light tanneries in Europe. Built in 1860 by W and J Sagar the main buildings of the tannery were in the area which is now Ball Grove Park and nearby residential areas. Over 100,000 gallons of water were taken from Colne Water via weirs and two reservoirs (lodges) to power a water wheel and provide the water necessary for the tanning process.

The business was declared bankrupt in 1970 and the tannery was demolished in 1974 but the two lodges were kept intact. The lower lodge was converted in the early 1980s and is now an attractive feature which is used for fishing. The upper lodge 500 metres upstream acted as a reserve to the lower lodge and is now the upper end of the Local Nature Reserve.

A footpath was added around the edge of the upper lodge in 2004. This joins the Ferndean Way, a three mile route from Waterside in Colne to Wycoller. The ruined Wycoller Hall is thought to have been the inspiration for Charlotte Brontë's Ferndean Manor, hence the name of the walk.

Friends of Ball Grove

Who are they?

Friends of Ball Grove are a group of people who are helping to maintain and improve Upper Ball Grove Local Nature Reserve and Ball Grove Picnic Site. They are supported by Pendle Council and the LNR Steering Group.

What do they do?

- Practical work – managing the habitats to benefit existing plants and animals and encourage diversity
- Educational work – encouraging schools and youth groups to visit the site and enjoy learning about nature
- Site management – discussing and solving site issues such as access and conservation

- Events and Promotions – such as guided walks, fun days, environmental art workshops, leaflets and posters
- Raising Funds – applying for funding to improve the site

How can I get involved?

Friends of Ball Grove are always looking for new members. You can be involved as little or as much as you want, from attending meetings to getting working with schools or helping with practical conservation work. Please contact us to have your details added to the mailing list. You will receive regular updates about the site's progress, meetings and events.



Park Keeper service

Pendle Council's Park Keeper service works in conjunction with the Friends of Ball Grove and Pendle's Environmental Action Group to help manage the site. The Park Keepers work with the Friends to put on events and activities for school groups and the local community. These events include nature walks, volunteer days, bat and moth hunts and pond dipping. The Park Keepers also patrol Ball Grove on a regular basis to provide a visible presence and enforce the park by-laws.

