

# Sensical Park

a wildlife haven at the heart of the community



Yellow Archangel



## Sensical Park Wood

Since 1984 people have been able to explore Sensical Park, an oasis for wildlife and peace and quiet. Yet the history of the park has been much more active. There has been mining around Oughtibridge for hundreds of years for valuable raw materials like ganister, coal and fireclay. Fireclay was dug from the top of the hill in Sensical Park to be mixed with crushed ganister and turned into firebricks for lining chimneys and furnaces for steel-making.

How has the park changed since mining finished? Nature has re colonised the works and Sensical Park is now a refuge for many plants and animals. There are certainly a lot more trees growing here today.

You can still see the remains of the brick and stone structures near the public footpath at the top of the hill. These structures were built to get the fireclay out of the wood. The footpaths in the park take you to the remains of pits and earthworks which now provide wet areas for insects and plants. In the spring look out for shows of flowers such as Bluebells, Yellow Archangel and Wood Anemone.

## Jarvill's Dam

Charles Jarvill was a miller in the Old Mill on Church Street. The dam provided water for the local corn mill as well as laundry washing for local cottages. The massive retaining wall of the dam is over eighty metres in length and in parts stands four metres high. The hundreds of tonnes of stone must have taken immense effort to transport to this site.

The dam wall is a valuable home to many mosses and ferns, and striking Yellow Flag Irises grow around the edges of the pond.

Near the dam wall, keep a sharp eye out for butterflies and dragonflies. As the sun sets you may spot bats out hunting for insects.

Grey wagtail



Greater Stitchwort



Orange Tip Butterfly



## Coume's Brook

This rushing stream carries fresh upland water from the heights of Onesmoor down to the River Don in the centre of the village. Through the 19th and 20th centuries Coume's Brook powered the mighty wheels of mills in Oughtibridge such as the Wagtail Wheel on Wheel Lane and the old corn mill on Church Street. The brook was channelled down hand-built gritstone walls to increase the speed and power of the water for the wheels.

These stones walls are a valuable habitat for wildlife, providing damp and shady crevices for plants and animals to grow and shelter. Can you spot a grey wagtail searching for a meal of insects?

Coume's Brook



Kaye Meadows

## Kaye Meadows

A terrace of houses known as 'Commonside' once stood where the entrance to Kaye Meadows is now. Coume's Brook ran underneath the land on which Commonside stood. The houses were demolished in the mid-20th century but the foundations can still be seen, and the bridge over the Brook is still in use today. In 2009 Kaye Meadows became a community allotment site.

## Location Map of Sensicall Park



**This land was acquired by Bradfield Parish Council in October 1974.**

The area was named Sensicall Park in appreciation of the long and devoted services of Robert Sensicall who served as a Councillor in the Westnall ward of the Parish. Mr Sensicall opened the park in July 1984.

Sensicall Park is managed by Bradfield Parish Council with support from the Steel Valley Project, a local conservation charity, to enable easier access to the Park and improve the habitat for the benefit of local wildlife.

Oughtibridge Village Community Association is working to help local people get involved in their local environment and care for the Park and its wildlife.

The black-and-white pictures are from the Jack Ambler collection at Bradfield Parish Archives.

For more information and to find out about volunteering please visit our website at: [www.stonetosteel.org.uk](http://www.stonetosteel.org.uk) or email us at: [info@steelvalleyproject.org.uk](mailto:info@steelvalleyproject.org.uk) Alternatively write to us at: Steel Valley Project, The ARC, Manchester Road, Stocksbridge, S36 2DT



# Sensicall Park

a wildlife haven at the heart of the community



Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown Copyright and database right 2010

[www.stonetosteel.org.uk](http://www.stonetosteel.org.uk)

