

# Eatock Lodge LNR, Westhoughton

## Development of the Reserve

The reserve is situated within a residential housing area to the south of Westhoughton. It occupies the industrial heritage site of Eatock Colliery, with the pit lodge and spoil heaps still dominating the landscape. This green oasis surrounded by housing provides not only a recreational resource but is rich in wildlife, leading to the site being declared a 'local nature reserve' in 2004.

Early habitat establishment of woodlands, ponds and grasslands was completed with the aid of Lancashire Wildlife Trust, who undertook maintenance on the site for several years. Management of the site still has wildlife as priority although other recreational uses are accommodated where they are compatible. The Friends of Eatock Lodge assist in reserve management and encourage suitable use and appreciation of the site. Details of the group can be found on Facebook at <http://westhoughtoncommunitynetwork.co.uk/eatocklodge.php>



**Nature Reclaims Colliery Lodge**

## What Can be Seen

The main features of the Reserve are the colliery spoil heaps and lodge which have seen some alteration when the site was reclaimed in the 1970s. This area of Westhoughton was once agricultural land with numerous ponds and ditches which provided habitat for one of the best amphibian breeding areas in the North West. Eatock Lodge LNR is one of the few remaining sites accommodating the remaining

populations of Common Frog and Common Toad. Other habitats present include 2 small ponds with ditches, native woodlands, extensive hedgerows and areas of acid grassland and flowers.

A formal footpath network provides circular walks around the site of approximately 10 minutes duration. Most entrances are steep or have steps but access from The Hoskers is level and provides access to the main path network.

## When to Visit

All Year – The lodge is the main focus of the site with ducks present all year and other visiting bird life.

Spring - Woodland support a range of birdlife and frog & toad spawn and tadpoles can be seen

Summer – An array of wildflowers and plants in the woods and grasslands. The lodge also provides a focus for wildlife with birds, dragonflies and damsel flies usually seen.

Autumn - Enjoy the autumn leaf colours and various plants and wildflowers setting seed.

## How to Get There

Railway to Daisy Hill, Westhoughton Station. A Walk of 1¼ km (3/4 mile) from the station via Leigh Road – Hartford Road – Hindley Road – France Street – The Hoskers.

Bus Services –           540     Bolton to Wigan, alight on Hindley Road  
                              559     Bolton – Hindley, alight on Wigan Road

There is no formal car parking. Street parking should follow normal highways considerations, avoiding obstruction of resident's driveways and not obscuring sight lines at road junctions and pedestrian crossing places.



**Late Summer Landscape**