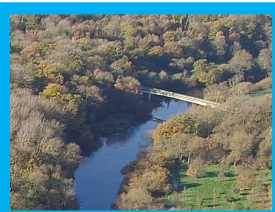


Discover more about  
Severn Valley Country Park on...

### Our Woodland Trail

Explore our three  
distinctly different  
woodlands



**Our Riverside Trail**  
Explore our riverside  
woodlands and  
meadows

### Our Family Play Trail

Enjoy a walk of  
discovery down to the  
river and back



Severn Valley  
Country Park

**Lives in the  
Landscape**



**Our History Trail**  
Uncover the hidden, and  
sometimes forgotten,  
history of lives in the  
Severn Valley landscape

The Lives in the Landscape project was funded by National Lottery  
Heritage Fund, Shropshire Council and The Jean Jackson Charitable Trust

### Play Areas



### Picnic Spots



**What's next?**  
**There's so much  
more to discover at  
Severn Valley  
Country Park!**

### Pools and wetlands



### Bird Hides



### Visitor Centre



### Wonderful Wildlife



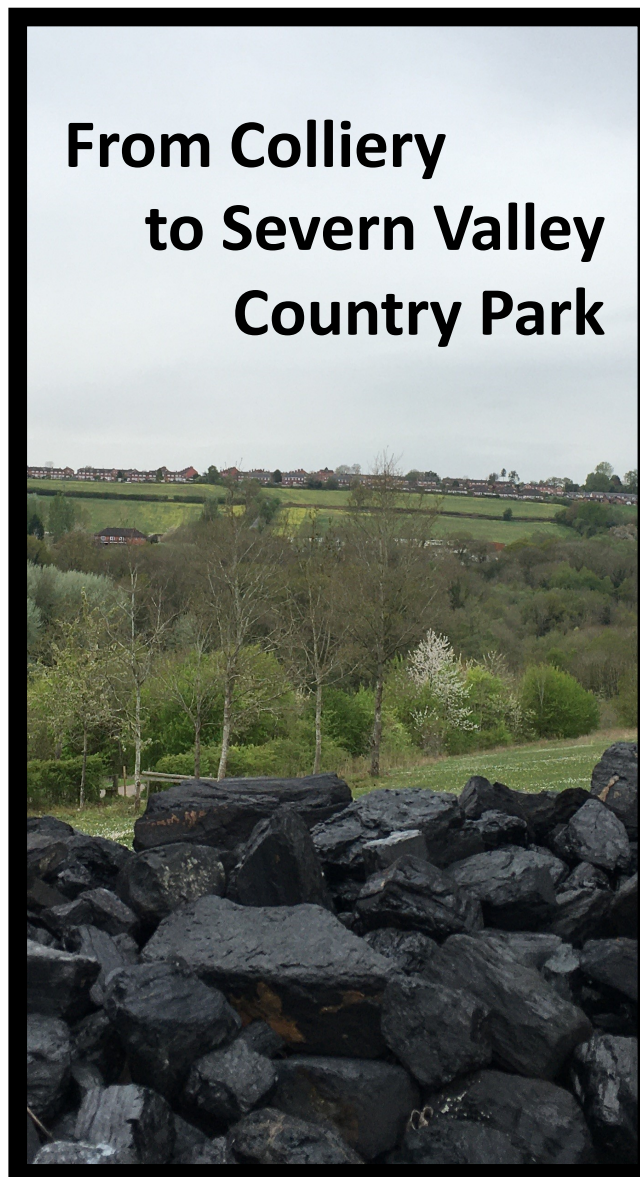
### Waymarked walks



Shropshire's  
**GREAT  
OUTDOORS**



## From Colliery to Severn Valley Country Park



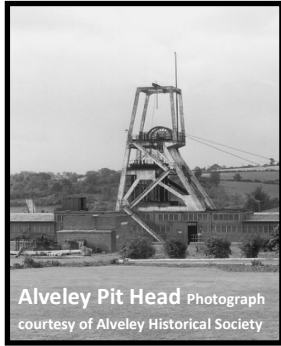
Tel: 01746 781 192

Email: [outdoor.recreation@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:outdoor.recreation@shropshire.gov.uk)

Website: [www.shropshiresgreatoutdoors.co.uk](http://www.shropshiresgreatoutdoors.co.uk)



**Severn Valley Country Park** was once the site of a colliery producing up to 300,000 tons of coal each year and employing over 1,000 people. The coal spoil mounds were transformed into the park you see today.



Alveley Pit Head Photograph courtesy of Alveley Historical Society

**The colliery closes:** The colliery at Alveley closed on 30th January 1969. The land was purchased from the National Coal Board by Bridgnorth Rural Council and the following year a small section became Alveley Industrial Estate. The rest of the site at Alveley, the Sidings and Station Road, Highley remained derelict for many years.

**First mentions of a country park:** As early as 1970 discussions were underway at Shropshire Council about how derelict colliery land around the county could be reclaimed. At this time country parks were a relatively new idea. In 1968, the Countryside Act allowed for the creation of country parks to *'make it easier for town dwellers to enjoy their leisure in the open, without travelling too far.'* It was a popular concept and by 1998, 250 country parks had opened.

#### **Land reclamation scheme given the go-ahead in 1986:**



Alveley site in 1987

For a number of years, the potential dangers of unstable coal spoil mounds had been a concern. The reclamation scheme at Alveley,

the Sidings and Highley would make the sites safe, remove foundations and derelict structures, restore the original shape of the valley sides where possible and improve the drainage at Alveley with a series of man-made ditches and pools.

All photographs on this page courtesy of Shropshire Council unless stated.

**Funding:** Approximately £1.8 million was received from the Department of the Environment's Derelict Land Grant. This grant was specifically for land which had been greatly damaged by industry.



Main path and drainage channel being positioned

shrubs being carried out from September 1988 to February 1989. Once this had been completed, the areas were further developed to create the country park. The



Digger working on site

**The work begins:** Phase 1 of the work began at Highley and the Sidings in February 1987. Phase 2 started at Alveley the following year. The reclamation was substantially finished by October 1988 with planting of new trees and

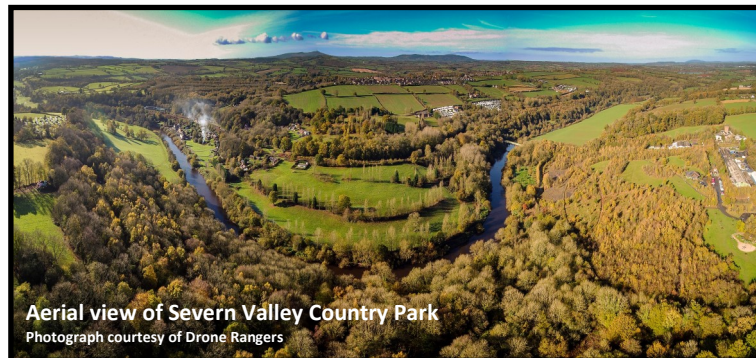
visitor centre was built, a network of footpaths added, benches and picnic benches installed, a toilet block built at Highley and interpretation added around the site.



Concrete drainage ditches

**Official opening:** The visitor centre was completed in 1992 and the park was officially opened by the Duke of Gloucester on 8th June 1992.

**Only the start:** Twenty three years after the colliery closed, the landscape at Severn Valley Country Park had changed again. This was only the beginning. The care and attention of our dedicated team of volunteers and rangers has seen the park go from strength to strength helping it become the beautiful place you see today.



Aerial view of Severn Valley Country Park Photograph courtesy of Drone Rangers

#### **The park continues to develop:**

**1993:** The Easy Access Trail was created and Spring Pieces Meadow and Jack's Meadow were acquired

**1997:** Elfin Pool was constructed

**1999:** The wetlands were created

**2003:** The park became part of the National Cycle Network

**2004:** 1st Green Flag Award received

**2006:** New bridge across the river

**2008:** Visitor centre was extended

**2013:** The 'Coal Spoil to Cowslips' project saw the creation of a new bridleway and meadow

**2017:** The 'Getting Closer to Nature' project allowed improvements to be made to the wetlands



Wildlife

Photograph courtesy of Tony Colton

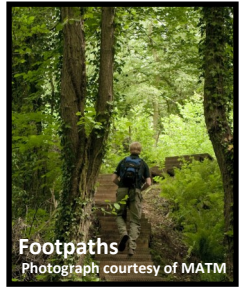
**2019:** Grant funding allowed the visitor centre to be extended again to provide a bigger welcome space and more interpretation to help tell the story of the park

**2019:** As part of the 'Unlocking the Severn' project a family play trail and play area were installed

**2020:** The installation of new history trail was one of the main outcomes of the 'Lives in the Landscape' project



Spring Pieces Meadow Photograph courtesy of Bill Watkins



Footpaths Photograph courtesy of MATM



**Our volunteers** are 'lives making their mark on the landscape' for the enjoyment of visitors and the benefit of

wildlife. These efforts were honoured in 2017, when the group was awarded **The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service** for 'the continued reclamation of a colliery site to create a country park and wildlife sanctuary'. The award is the equivalent of an MBE for voluntary groups, and recognises excellence in activities carried out by community groups.

