

This part of the Country Park is known as 'The Toe'. It was originally occupied by railway sidings and buildings of the former Cotgrave Colliery. The area was obtained in a land swap when the housing estate was built, to ensure some of the interesting communities of ruderal plants survived. Derived from the Latin word *rudus* meaning 'rubble', these ruderal plants are colonists of waste ground or disturbed areas.

The bare ground allows various mosses and lichens to establish along with rosette-forming plants such as Mouse-eared Hawkweed and Lesser Hawkbit, and nectar-rich plants such as Bird's-foot trefoil. The lichens can survive dry conditions in the summer months and thrive in the damp during the autumn and winter along with various brightly coloured fungi.

Although it is a relatively small area (1.6 hectares) The Toe contributes considerably to the biodiversity of the Country Park.



View of The Toe

Threats to the site

Colonisation by woody species such as Dog Rose, Hawthorn, Sea Buckthorn and Silver Birch which, although a natural feature of the habitat, will spread and shade out other species and cause the area to become scrub, and eventually woodland. Therefore, the area needs to be managed to control scrub growth and maintain open habitat for the species the area currently supports.

Management of the site

This is achieved by cutting back areas of the site annually on a rotation but retaining scattered clumps of scrub and individual trees and bushes which are features of the site as you see it today.

Other points of interest

- The open habitat is especially good for invertebrates, including predatory insects such as ground beetles, rove beetles and ants.
- The high mineral content of the soils encourages a variety of species of snail.
- The abundance of nectar producing and foodplants attract a variety of insects such as Green Hairstreak and Dingy Skipper butterflies, and Six-belted Clearwing moth.
- The open aspect of the site attracts mammals such as mice and rabbits, as well as foxes which prey upon them.

Common Centaury



Conical Waxcap



Green Hairstreak



Ground Beetle

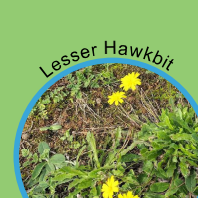


Look out for...

Harvestmen



Lesser Hawkbit



Reindeer Moss Lichen



Mouse-eared Hawkweed



Banded Snail



Did You Know?

Although it is a relatively small area (1.6 hectares), The Toe contributes considerably to the biodiversity of the Country Park.

Find Us On 
<https://www.cotgravecountrypark.co.uk>



Cotgrave Country Park is owned and managed by NCC. FoCCP volunteers designed and installed these boards



Registered charity number 1199132