

newsletter



GRASSMOOR
LAGOONS

Issue 01 November 2009

welcome to the Grassmoor Lagoons newsletter

in this issue ►

History of Grassmoor Lagoons



How the lagoons formed and their links to the former colliery

What is happening now



Plans for the Grassmoor Lagoons site

What happens next



What to expect as a local resident



Welcome to the first issue of the Grassmoor Lagoons newsletter

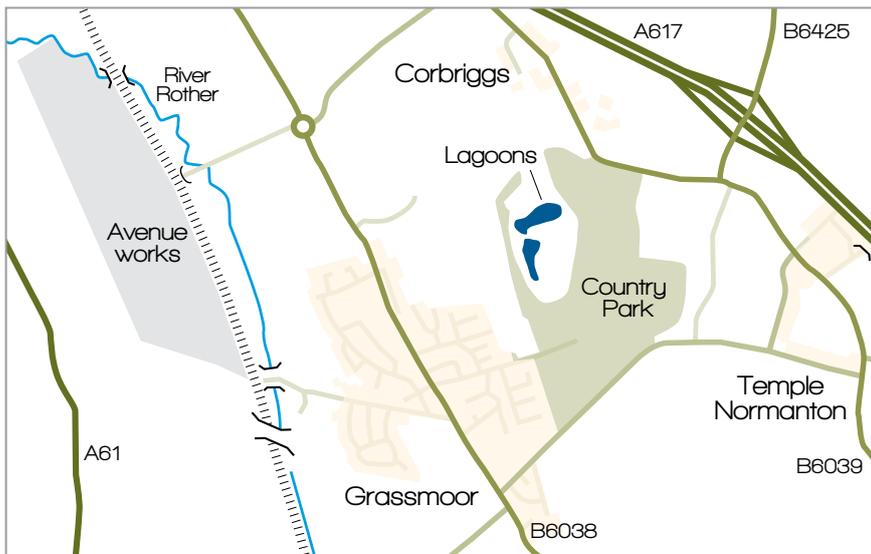
This newsletter aims to keep local people informed and involved with the project to remediate the Grassmoor Lagoons.

The newsletter also sets out what you can expect from the project, and includes a questionnaire that we hope you will complete and return to us.

Your feedback will provide us with essential information about how local people use Grassmoor Country Park and will help us to transform the lagoons area.

We will give regular updates on what is happening as the project progresses. Your views are important to us, and if you have any questions or comments you can contact us. Contact details are provided on the back page.

History of Grassmoor Lagoons



The Grassmoor Lagoons lie on a former colliery tip next to Grassmoor Country Park between the villages of Grassmoor, Corbriggs and Temple Normanton. There are nine lagoons on the site, which includes the highest ground in the country park with views over Chesterfield and the Rother Valley. The lagoons were formed in spoil tips at the former Grassmoor colliery, which operated on the site from the 1840s until its closure in 1967.

Because of deep water and contaminated sludge, this area is currently fenced off to prevent public access.

When British Coal opened the Avenue Coking Works nearby, it used the lagoon area to treat waste liquid from the coking works. During this time, large amounts of coal tar sludge from the works settled in the lagoons.

The works closed in 1993, and Derbyshire County Council took over the lagoons site later the same year.

What is happening now

Remediation specialist RemedX (an RSK Group plc company) has been appointed to safely clean up the lagoons and return the area to the Grassmoor Country Park.

The project is being funded by the East Midlands Development Agency (EMDA) and the government's Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC).

It is expected to take around four years to remediate the lagoons area. The work has to be carried out in several stages, and, unfortunately, there is no quick fix. But we will do all we can to keep any disruption to a minimum while this important work takes place.

Small areas of Grassmoor Country Park may have to be temporarily fenced off while we are working, but people will still be able to use the park as normal, including the Five Pits Trail and the footpath from Chapman Lane to the fishing pond.

Timeline

Spring–summer 2009

- Ecological surveys
- Preparation of environmental impact assessment

Now until Christmas

- Newsletter and Grassmoor Country Park questionnaire
- Public exhibition in December
- Risk assessment
- Pumping water from the main lagoon
- Clearing scrub before spring birds nesting season

January 2010

- Planning application will be submitted

July 2010

- Remediation will begin subject to planning approval

Autumn–winter 2012

- Fully remediated soil incorporated into a new landform
- Landscaping, reprofiling and planting

2014

- Safe and clean area opened to the public

What happens next



Work to clean up the lagoons has not yet started, but we have been carrying out some investigations on the site, so you may have already noticed some work taking place.

Throughout spring and summer this year, we undertook detailed surveys to find out what animals, insects and plants were on the site.

Our findings will help us produce an environmental impact assessment, a planning application and risk assessments, which should be available in early 2010. We have to do this before the clean-up can start.

Over the winter, we will start clearing undergrowth away from the lagoons. We need to do this before the spring so we do not disturb breeding birds.

Water will also be drained from the largest lagoon so we can gain access to reveal the contaminated sludge below.

We need planning permission from Derbyshire County Council before we can start the clean-up, and we are aiming to apply for this in early 2010.

Following the granting of planning permission, we expect to start the remediation work in July 2010, and, when the work is finished, we expect to reopen the former lagoons site to the public in 2014.

What will happen on-site

Specialist remediation equipment, diggers and trucks will be used in the remediation work. The lagoons site will remain fenced off to the public. For more information about how the clean-up process works, visit the project website at www.grassmoorlagoons.info.

Appropriate control measures to minimise the nuisance from noise, dust, smells and traffic will be developed, agreed with the planning authorities and implemented throughout the work.

The work will be carried out so that local residents and country park users are kept safe and disruption is kept to a minimum.



Grassmoor Country Park



A note about the Avenue project

You may be aware of the project at the former Avenue Coking Works in Wingerworth. This is a completely separate project to Grassmoor Lagoons, although the two sites were linked in the past. Grassmoor Lagoons were built to treat waste water from the Avenue Coking Works. The Avenue site is now owned by the East Midlands Development Agency (EMDA), and the Grassmoor Lagoons site is owned by Derbyshire County Council. EMDA and the Department of Energy and Climate Change are funding the work to clean up the Grassmoor Lagoons site. The Grassmoor Lagoons and Avenue Coking Works projects are being undertaken under separate contracts. Further information on the Avenue project can be found on the website: www.theavenueproject.co.uk.

Where can I find out more?

Public exhibition

We are holding a public exhibition in the Grassmoor Community Centre from 12pm to 9pm on Tuesday, 1 December 2009 so that local people can come along and find out more about the plans.

Experts will be on hand to answer any questions you may have about the project, and you will have the chance to tell us your views on the future of the lagoons site once it has been restored.

Contact details

We recognise the important role local people will play in this project and so we welcome your questions and comments at any time.

By post: RemedX Limited, 12 Royal Scot Road, Pride Park, Derby DE24 8AJ

By email: info@grassmoorlagoons.info

On the web: www.grassmoorlagoons.info

By telephone: 0844 980 0759 (calls charged at 3p per minute. 24-hour answerphone)



Your feedback is invited

At certain stages of the project, your input will be crucial. The first of these stages is now. We would really appreciate it if you could complete an online questionnaire. The questionnaire will inform us about how the community uses Grassmoor Country Park.