

THE SILVERHILL TRAIL

You can enjoy the 4.5 mile Silverhill Trail on foot, by bicycle or on horseback. It is surfaced and has easy access for prams and mobility scooters, making it suitable for everyone to enjoy. The trail links the southern end of the Five Pits Trail at Tibshelf Ponds with the Pleasley and Teversal Trails to the east. If you want longer distances, follow the Five Pits Trail towards Chesterfield or join the National Cycle Network into Sherwood Forest.

This trail was one of the many railway tracks crossing the area, linking the collieries to the main line. The closures of the pits and railways have given us a dramatically changed landscape. We now have trails and country parks, a greenway network and links from villages into the countryside.

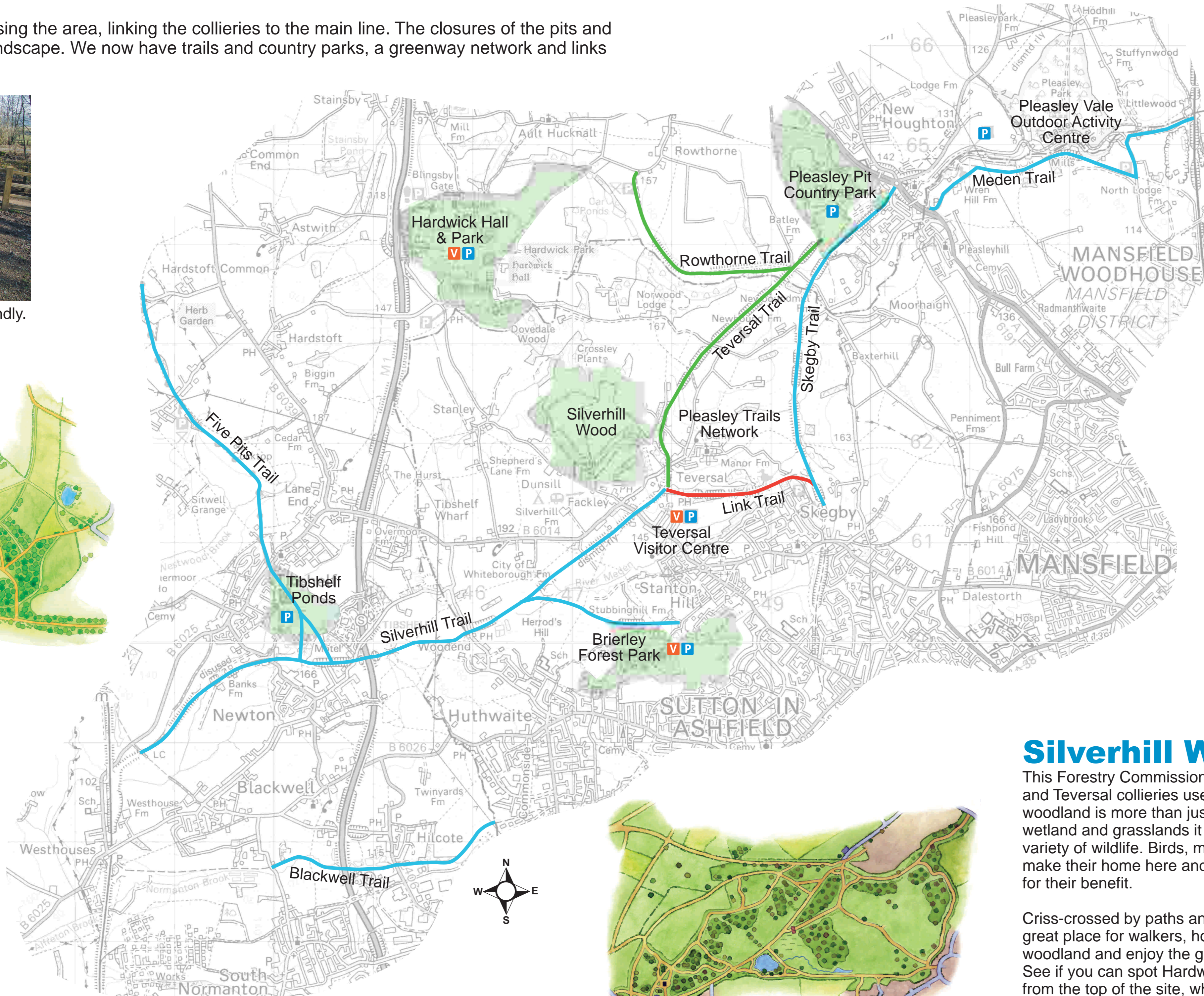


Many of the trails are access-for-all friendly.

Tibshelf Ponds

The area round the ponds is where Tibshelf 'bottom' pit - one of three in the village - used to be. Now the area is a countryside site with areas of woodland and grassland. These provide habitats for wildflowers, including the rare bee orchid, and for birds and insects.

From the ponds there is easy access to local shops and pubs on the High Street for refreshments to keep you going. Horse box parking and a specially designed 'gallop' will appeal to riders, while walkers and cyclists will also enjoy exploring the wider area using the Five Pits and Silverhill Trails.



Pleasley Pit Country Park

This country park has an amazing variety of habitats. This gives nature lovers the chance to spot many different birds, dragonflies and damselflies. Through the spring and summer there is an array of wildflowers, including increasingly rare orchids. In dramatic contrast to the country park you will see the remaining pit buildings which are now a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM).



Pleasley Pit Country Park



Teversal Visitor Centre

This visitor centre is run by volunteers and is usually open all year round. With lots of space for parking it is an ideal starting point to get onto the Silverhill, Pleasley and Teversal Trails and a good place for a cup of tea when you have finished!



Tree sculpture at Teversal Visitor Centre

Silverhill Woods

This Forestry Commission site is where Silverhill and Teversal collieries used to be. This community woodland is more than just trees! With ponds, wetland and grasslands it is now home to an amazing variety of wildlife. Birds, mammals and insects already make their home here and the area is being managed for their benefit.

Criss-crossed by paths and surfaced tracks, Silverhill Woods is a great place for walkers, horse riders and cyclists to explore the young woodland and enjoy the great views across the surrounding countryside. See if you can spot Hardwick Hall, Bolsover Castle and even Lincoln Cathedral from the top of the site, which is the highest point in Nottinghamshire.



Bee orchid



Skylark

Brierley Forest Park

This former colliery site is now a country park, owned and managed by Ashfield District Council. As you explore the wildflower meadows, woodlands and ponds look out for the variety of wildlife that live here now. You can often see and hear skylarks singing high in the sky above the park and you might be lucky enough to catch a glimpse of owls, foxes and the many other birds and animals around.

There are routes around the park for walkers, cyclists and horse riders and easy access routes suitable for scooters, prams and wheelchairs. The visitor centre here is open all year round and offers information, exhibitions and refreshments.



The visitor centre at Brierley Forest Park

KEY

- Walkers only
- Walkers and cyclists
- Walkers, cyclists and horse riders
- V Visitor Centre
- P Parking

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