



Case Study

Avenue Washlands

Location: **Derbyshire**

Size: **80 hectares**
Client: **East Midlands Development Agency**
the Land Trust's Role: **Sustainable exit strategy**
From: **Former coking works**
To: **Nature reserve**

This site has undergone transformation from a former Coking Works that was reckoned to be one of the most contaminated in Europe to a wonderful nature reserve.

A sustainable approach and strong partnerships has now transformed this site into a wonderful nature reserve, supporting protected wildlife and providing educational opportunities for local people.

At its peak the plant carbonised 2,175 tonnes of coal a day. This could produce: 1,400 tons of smokeless fuel, 65 tons of Sulphuric Acid, 35 tons of Ammonium Sulphate, 20,000 gallons of crude Benzole and 250 tons of Tar.

In 1992 the works closed, lying disused until in 1999 when the East Midland Development Agency, funded by the Homes and Communities Agency through the National Coalfield Programme, commenced the enormous task of dismantling and cleaning possibly this highly contaminated site.

In 2007, the restoration of the site was completed and it was transferred to the Land Trust who provided a sustainable and cost effective exit for the landowner, protecting the money invested in restoring the land and covering environmental liabilities associated with the site's past history.

The Land Trust now works with Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, who manages the site on a day to day basis, adding value to the area through running activities to improve health, education and social cohesion for the surrounding communities through maintaining the green space and supporting biodiversity.



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