

## Introduction to Letchmire Pastures

Letchmire Pastures is a small site, mainly consisting of wetland and grassland with some areas of scrub and trees.

[Click here for aerial photograph of Letchmire Pastures.](#)

### History

Originally, Letchmire Pastures was an area used for storing coal from the nearby pit in Allerton Bywater (Allerton Silkstone colliery). When the coal mine closed down in 1992, Leeds City Council took over the site and set about transforming it into a wildlife haven. In 1996 they brought in lots of different wild plants and animals, including 2000 toads from another site in Leeds and it's been a valuable place for wildlife ever since.

[Click here for photographs of the transformation.](#)

### Wildlife

Letchmire Pastures has toads and frogs, dragonflies, birds like lapwings, yellowhammers, ringed plovers and meadow pipits, and lots of beautiful summer flowers like orchids.

[Click here for photographs of plants and animals that live at Letchmire Pastures.](#)

### Visitor facilities

At the entrance to Letchmire Pastures there is an area of land that has been fenced. It contains newly-planted trees including oak and hawthorn, and disabled access footpaths. The main area of the nature reserve itself has a footpath that goes all the way round the perimeter of the reserve, and another that goes across the middle too; however, these paths can get muddy in winter. An area of the reserve is fenced to discourage disturbance to breeding birds.

[Click here for a map of the reserve.](#)



## Letchmire Pastures



*Aerial view of Letchmire Pastures*



## The History of Letchmire Pastures



1980's coal store



Bringing toads from Sturton Marshes 1990's



Letchmire Pastures today



## Wildlife at Letchmire Pastures



*Common spotted orchid*



*Lapwing*



*Toad*



*Grasshopper*



*Grey heron*



## Letchmire Pastures Map



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