

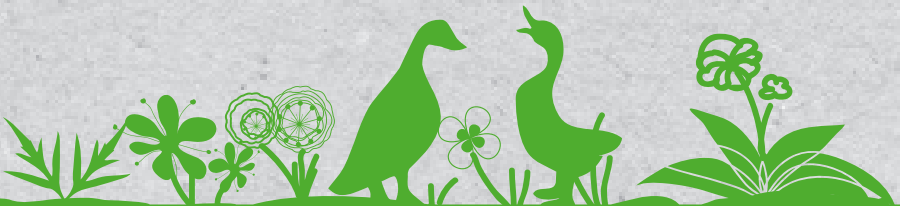


20p
Suggested
Donation

NATURE TRAIL

Gedling Country Park

Our nature trail starts just after the children's play area and includes eight animals, which are local to Gedling Country Park. Can you find them all? You will need a crayon, which may be borrowed from the café. When you see an animal on the trail, put the relevant leaflet page over the rubbing plaque on the wooden sculpture and use the long side of your crayon to create a wax impression of each animal.





AROUND GEDLING COUNTRY PARK

While you complete the nature trail,
can you answer these questions?

There are some wooden animals hiding in the two children's play areas. How many are there all together?

There are some bird boxes in the woodland around the nature trail. How many can you find?

How many cows can you see in the field by the nature trail?

How many mining rings are there in the memorial garden?

How many miners can you see on the large artwork in the memorial garden?

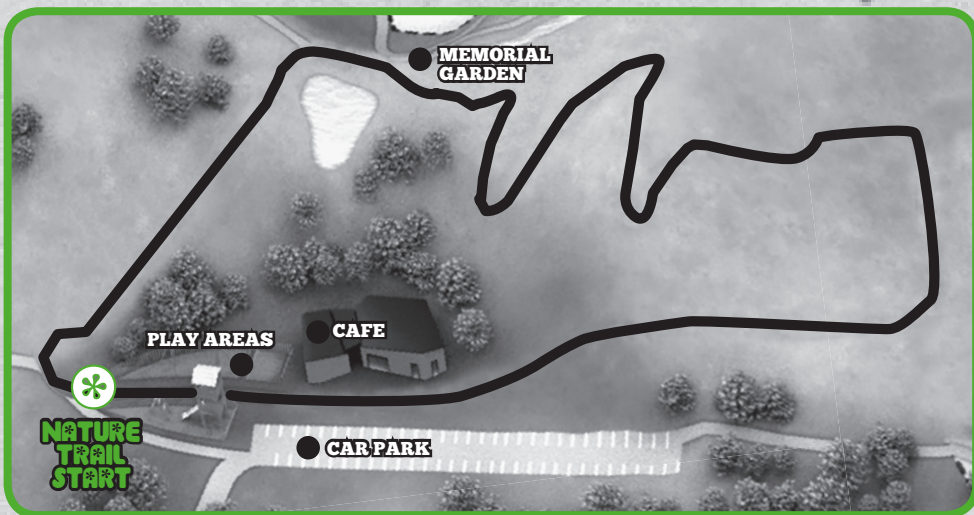
How many birds can you see on the large artwork in the memorial garden?

There are some birds in the picture on one of the memorial garden benches. How many can you see?

How many pit ponies are there on the other memorial garden bench?

There are some feeding tables behind the café. How many birds can you see on them?





NATURE TRAIL

Welcome to our nature trail, which follows our wheelchair and pushchair friendly footpath. It is the blue route, known as “High Hazels” on the main park map, and is a circular 1.4km (0.87miles).

Before starting our nature trail, please borrow a crayon from the café. There are eight nature carvings to find. When you come across an animal, put the relevant page of the leaflet over the rubbing plaque and use the side of your crayon to create a wax impression of each animal.

Please remember to return the crayons to the café so we can reuse them. Thank you.





Align this box over the rubbing plaque and use the long side of your crayon to rub over the animal to create a wax impression.

Share your nature trail picture with us on Instagram and you could be featured on our page **@gedling_country_park**

Mole



Mole

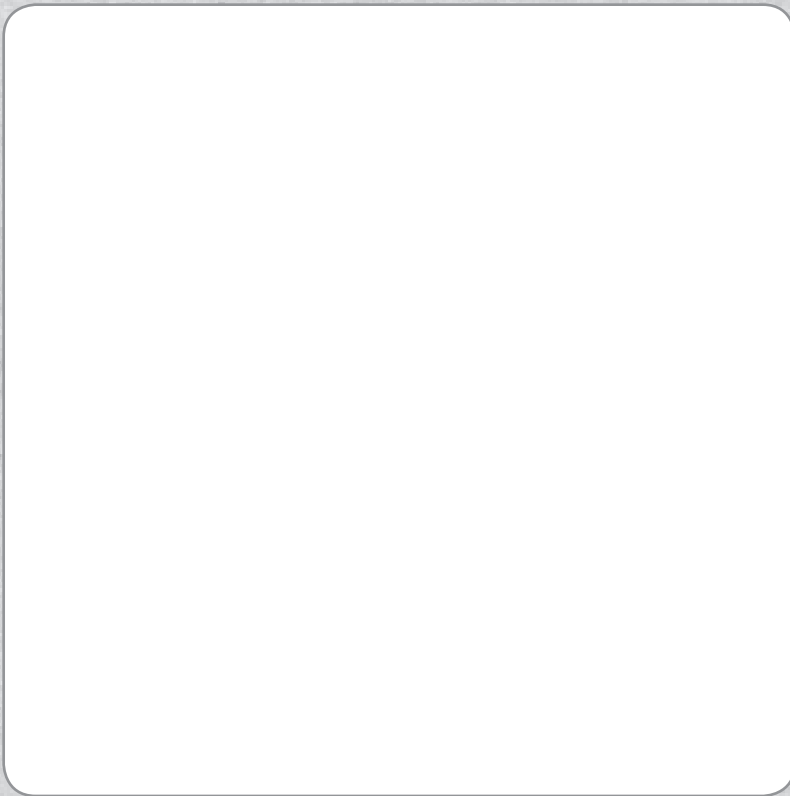
Moles are small mammals who spend most of their time underground, building long tunnels and underground homes. They have curved front paws and claws that dig like shovels. Moles have small eyes that are covered in fur, to stop them getting damaged while they dig. They use their nose to detect movement and the scents of prey and other moles.

Did you know?

- **Moles are not hibernators - they work all year round to catch food.**
- **A mole needs to eat the equivalent of its own bodyweight each day.**
- **Moles likes to eat earthworms, beetles and other insects.**



Image ©Juefaphoto / Fotolia



Align this box over the rubbing plaque and use the long side of your crayon to rub over the animal to create a wax impression.

Share your nature trail picture with us on Instagram and you could be featured on our page **@gedling_country_park**

Fox



Fox

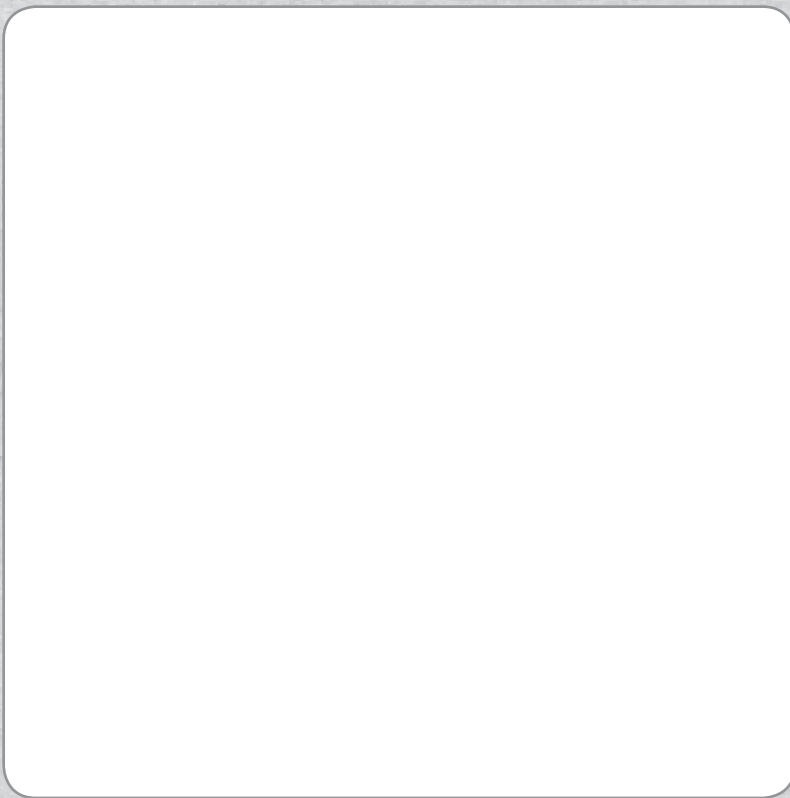
Foxes are very distinctive, but they are much smaller than people think. Their fur colour can range from deep reddish brown to almost blonde in colour. They have a similar shape to a small dog with pointed ears and nose, and a bushy tail or 'brush'. Foxes often only live for one or two years, although they have been known to survive for up to nine years.

Did you know?

- **Foxes like to live in small family groups.**
- **They are most likely to come out at dawn or dusk.**
- **They do not hibernate so you might see a fox all year round.**



Image ©veneratio / Fotolia



Align this box over the rubbing plaque and use the long side of your crayon to rub over the animal to create a wax impression.

Share your nature trail picture with us on Instagram and you could be featured on our page **@gedling_country_park**

Hedgehog



Hedgehog

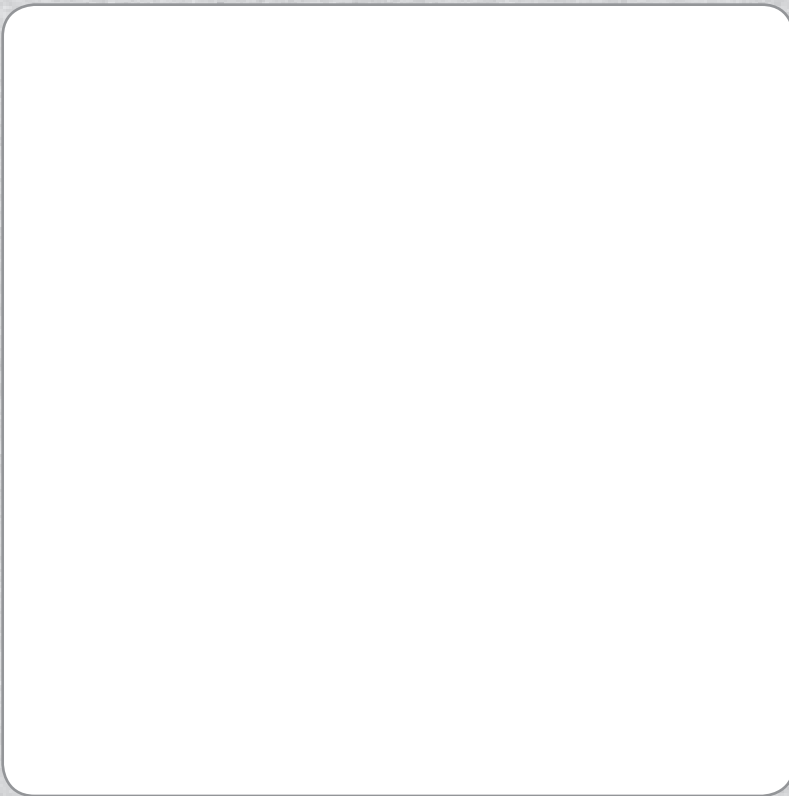
Hedgehogs are known for having lots of spikes. When a hedgehog is old enough to leave its mum's nest, it will have around 3,000 spikes. Fully grown, it will have up to 7,500 spikes. These normally lie flat but a hedgehog will raise up its spikes in times of danger. It will keep its head and legs tucked in, so it forms a spiky ball, to protect itself against most predators.

Did you know?

- **Hedgehogs mainly eat beetles, caterpillars, earthworms and slugs.**
- **Some people put bread and milk out for them, but this can upset their tummies.**
- **Tinned dog or cat food with a saucer of water is better.**



Image © agatsr / Fotolia



Align this box over the rubbing plaque and use the long side of your crayon to rub over the animal to create a wax impression.

Share your nature trail picture with us on Instagram and you could be featured on our page **@gedling_country_park**

Grey Heron



Grey Heron

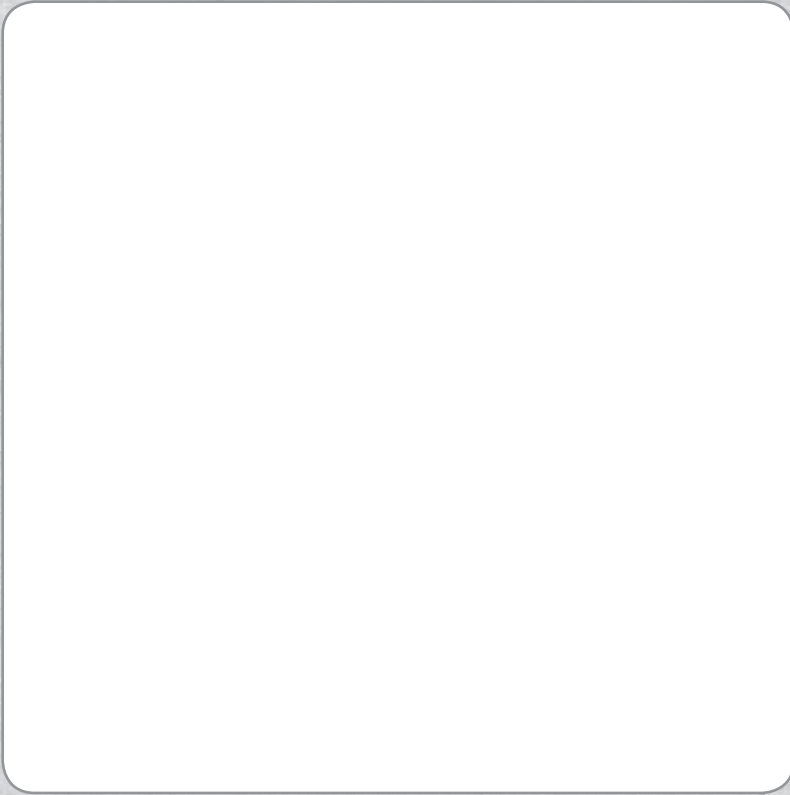
A grey heron is unmistakable - it is tall, with long legs and a pointy beak. It has grey, black and white feathers. It is often seen standing up, with its neck stretched out, looking for food. Herons like to eat lots of fish. They also eat small animals and birds like ducklings, voles and frogs. After a field has been harvested, you might see a grey heron, looking for mice and other rodents.

Did you know?

- **Hérons can be found near water containing fish, including garden ponds.**
- **Grey herons are one of the largest local birds with a wing span of around 180cm (6ft).**
- **Hérons suffer during cold winters, when ponds and streams freeze.**



Image ©robertharding / Fotolia



Align this box over the rubbing plaque and use the long side of your crayon to rub over the animal to create a wax impression.

Share your nature trail picture with us on Instagram and you could be featured on our page **@gedling_country_park**

Pipistrelle Bat



Pipistrelle Bat

Bats are nocturnal, which means they are active at night time. They 'see' in the dark using a special skill called echolocation. Bats make noises and wait for the sound waves to bounce back off objects (an echo). They can tell the distance of various objects by how quickly the sound waves bounce back to them. Bats are also the only flying mammal. While other mammals can glide, bats are the only truly flying mammal.

Did you know?

- **There are over 1,000 different bat species.**
- **A tiny pipistrelle can eat up to 3,000 insects in a night.**
- **Bats can live for up to 30 years and usually only have one baby a year.**

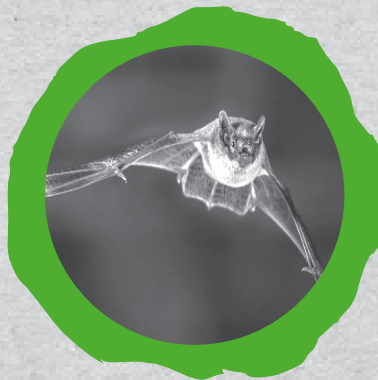
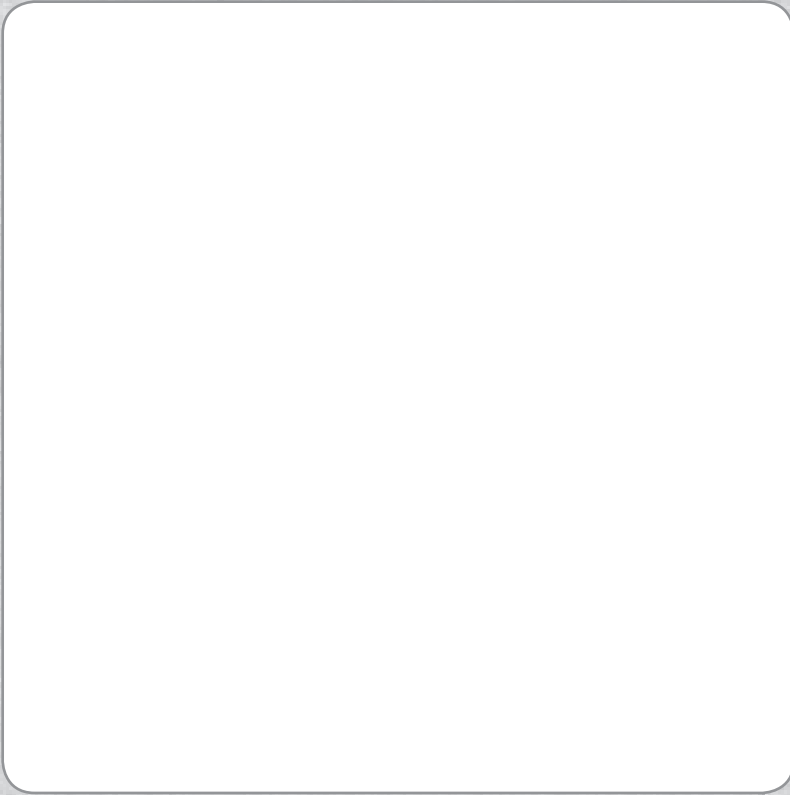


Image ©creativenature.nl / Fotolia



Align this box over the rubbing plaque and use the long side of your crayon to rub over the animal to create a wax impression.

Share your nature trail picture with us on Instagram and you could be featured on our page [**@gedling_country_park**](#)

Green Woodpecker



Green Woodpecker

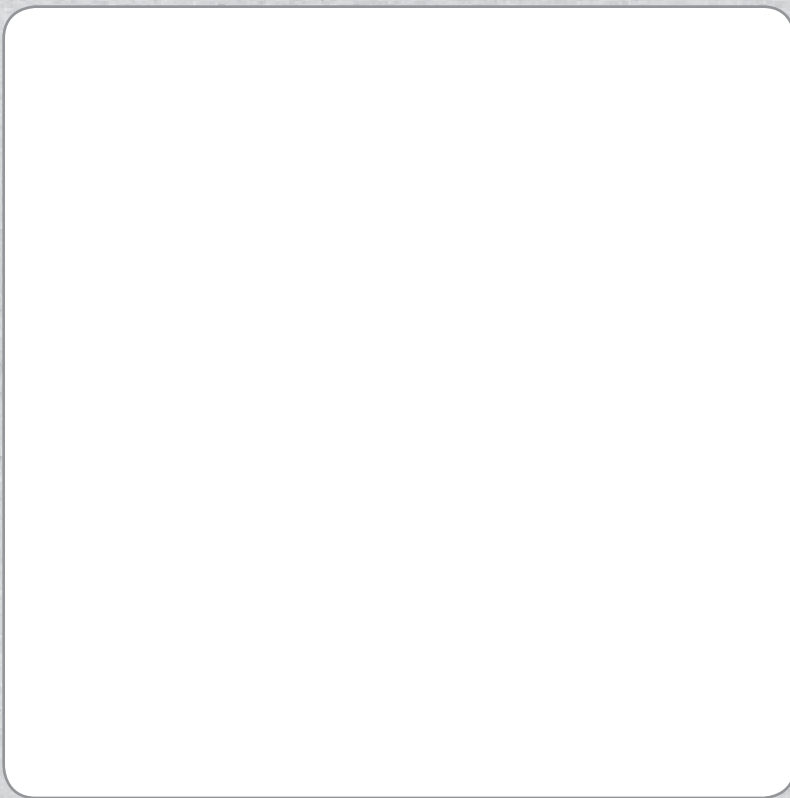
Green woodpeckers are often found in pairs or family groups. They communicate with each other by calling frequently. Of the three types of woodpeckers we find in Britain, the green woodpecker is the largest and spends the least amount of time in trees. It likes to feed on the ground, catching ants and their eggs with its exceptionally long and sticky tongue.

Did you know?

- **Green woodpeckers make their nests in the cavities of trees, using their beak to make a tunnel and nest chamber inside the wood.**
- **They use wood chips to line their nest and have between five and eight white eggs.**
- **The male and female take it in turns to look after the eggs, with the male sitting at night.**



Image ©YK / Fotolia



Align this box over the rubbing plaque and use the long side of your crayon to rub over the animal to create a wax impression.

Share your nature trail picture with us on Instagram and you could be featured on our page **@gedling_country_park**

Badger



Badger

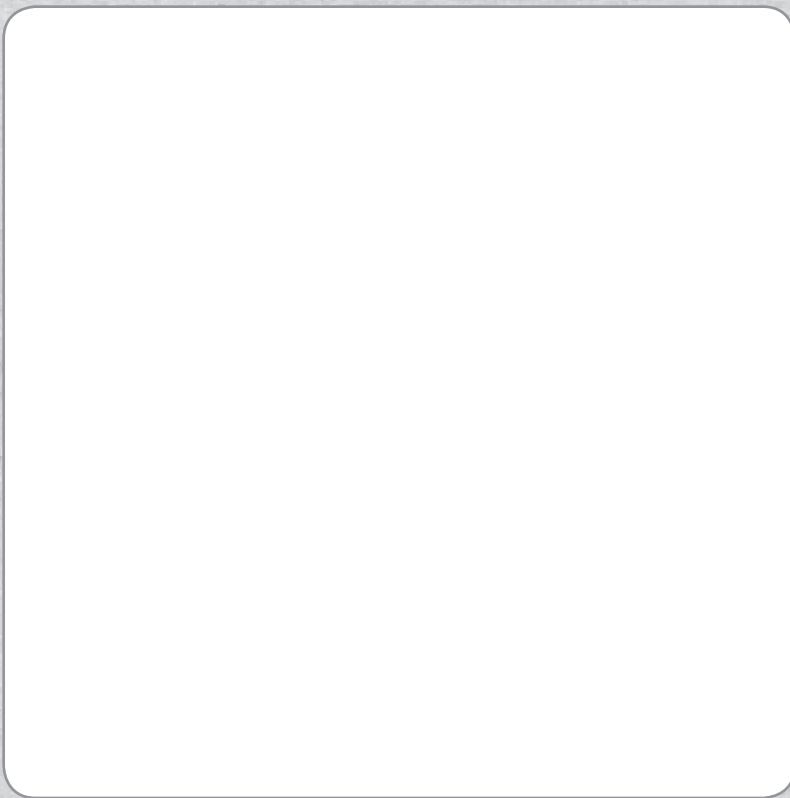
Badgers are easy to identify - they have a greyish body, dark legs and a white head with a dark stripe over their eyes. Despite this, they are rarely seen as they only come out at night. They live in setts, which are a series of underground tunnels and caves. They make their setts in woodlands and on embankments, but also near canals, railways, roadsides, rubbish dumps, coal tips and in gardens.

Did you know?

- **Badgers use grass and leaves as bedding.**
- **They have poor eyesight but very good hearing and an excellent sense of smell.**
- **Although badgers mainly eat earthworms, they like slugs, snails, birds' eggs and fruit.**



Image ©markmedcaff / Fotolia



Align this box over the rubbing plaque and use the long side of your crayon to rub over the animal to create a wax impression.

Share your nature trail picture with us on Instagram and you could be featured on our page **@gedling_country_park**

Rabbit



Rabbit

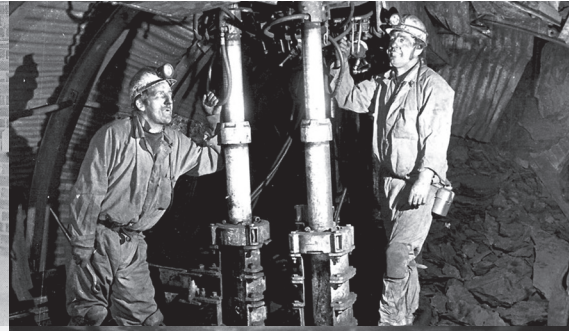
Rabbits can be seen during the daytime, often in large numbers at dawn and dusk. The rabbit's big brown eyes, found on the sides of its head, means it can see all around itself. It has large sensitive ears which can be turned in any direction, to help it sense danger. Rabbits are herbivores and eat grass, leafy weeds and vegetables. During winter, they survive by gnawing tree bark.

Did you know?

- **Rabbits are not native and were brought here 900 years ago from France by the Normans.**
- **They rarely come out of their burrows on windy days as the wind affects their hearing.**
- **A male rabbit is called a buck and the female is called a doe.**



Image ©Harvey Henkelmann



History of the park

In 1899, work started on this site to create Gedling Colliery. Driven by the huge demand for coal, it quickly became the life-blood of the village and its surrounding areas. At its peak after World War II, it employed over 2,000 people and produced over a million tonnes of coal per year. It became known as the "Pit of Nations" because of the diversity of the miners, drawn from over 15 different countries. Coal was last extracted from Gedling Colliery on 7 November 1991. It was developed into a country park and opened to the public on 28 March 2015.

With thanks

Our nature trail has been possible with thanks to the generous donations of time, money and support from the following organisations:



LOTTERY FUNDED



We also thank the artist, Peter Leadbeater, for creating the nature trail wooden sculptures.

Pictures courtesy of Nottingham Post

