



Markham Vale

The former Markham Colliery area has been reclaimed and is home to Derbyshire County Council's £94m Markham Vale regeneration scheme, which is working to create 4,100 jobs on site for local people and is underpinned by a philosophy of sustainability, accessibility and quality.

The Walking Together project has been a ten year journey which has been led by Derbyshire County Council, HBD and Markham Vale Heritage Group volunteers, coordinated by Beam and enabled by many funders, sponsors and supporters.

Heritage group volunteers have worked tirelessly to ensure that the brave miners of Markham and the wider mining heritage of the area are not forgotten. We thank them for their unwavering commitment to the project.

The trail was fundraised for and installed in phases over ten years and was completed in autumn 2022.

Plan Your Visit

A good starting point to walk the route is the Markham Vale Environment Centre, Markham Lane, Chesterfield, S44 5HY.

Plan your visit to the memorial at markhamstorymine.org

Walking Together

Further information
markhamstorymine.org

Markham Vale Mining Memorial Heritage Trail



Trail map inside





‘The Walking Together’ memorial trail commemorates the 106 miners who lost their lives in the three major disasters at Markham Colliery in 1937, 1938 and 1973 with a sculptural steel figure for each one.

Artist Stephen Broadbent developed the concept with guidance from the local community. The route symbolises a miner’s journey to the pit – and back home again. Each figure bears a tag with the name of the miner, his age, occupation and the year of the disaster.

A parallel project called ‘The Story Mine’ has unearthed stories of mining life and the men who died in each of the major disasters and is shared online at markhamstorymine.org

This resource was supported by National Lottery Heritage Fund and Derbyshire County Council.

The Three Major Disasters at Markham Colliery

1937

On Thursday 21st January 1937 at 2.45pm an explosion happened just when the men were changing over from the day shift to the afternoon shift. A flame which escaped from a faulty covering plate on the coal cutting machine caused a build-up of gas and ignited the coal dust.

Seven men were killed at the scene and two men died later in hospital. Four men were seriously injured. The accident happened in the Black Shale seam - the deepest part of the pit and the furthest away from the pit bottom about one and a half miles.

1938

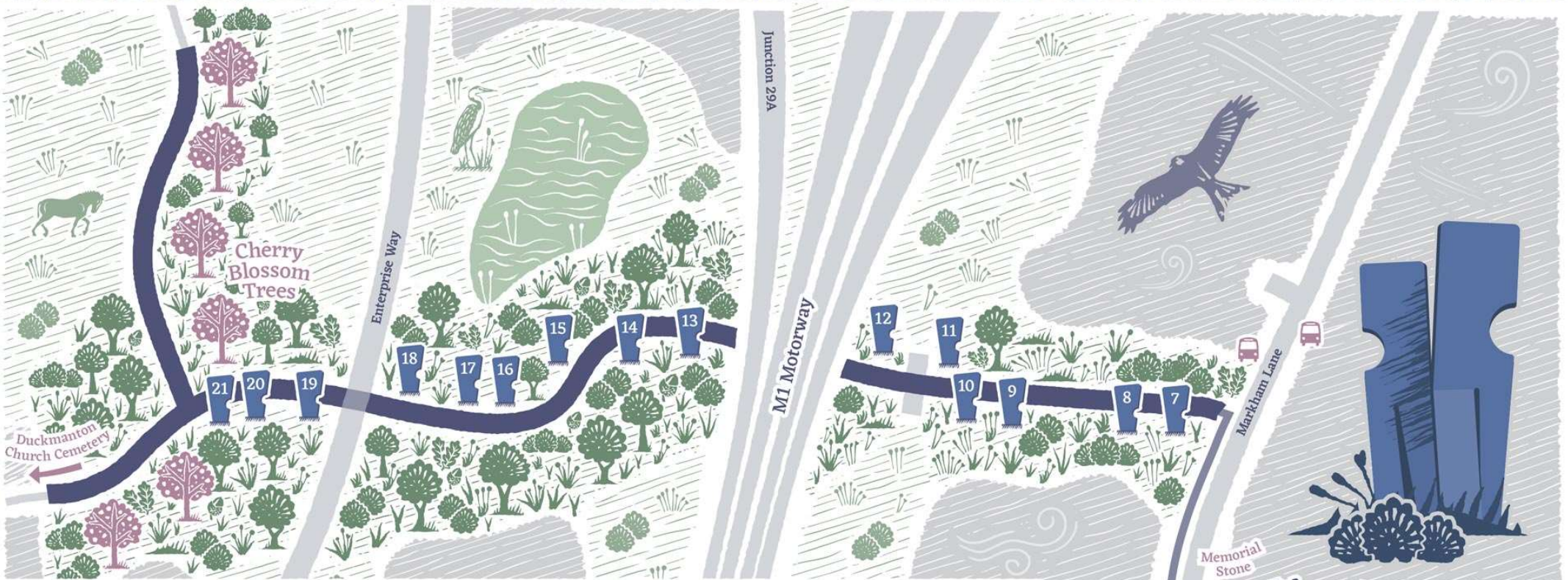
At 5.30am on Tuesday 10th May 1938, the night shift was coming to an end, some of the men had already started to make their way back to the pit bottom. This was the Black Shale seam, the deepest and the farthest away from the pit bottom. In the pit yard the men on the day shift were arriving ready to start work at 6am. Suddenly, underground, a tremendous draft got up followed by a terrific bang. Black

coal dust and smoke filled the pit and a wall of fire swept through the seam. There had been an explosion of gas at the coal face. Some tubs carrying coal ran out of control and smashed into an electric joint box causing sparks which ignited the coal dust. 79 men were killed and 40 men were injured. All 79 men were buried on Saturday 14th May in 13 cemeteries.

1973

On Monday 30th July 1973 a terrible disaster happened when the cage carrying the miners to go underground into the pit failed to stop. It was the start of the day shift and by 6.20am 105 miners had already been lowered into the pit. Then, the overlap rope cage carrying 15 men on the top deck and 14 men on the lower deck began its descent. Sparks were seen coming from the brake cylinder by the engine winder

who then slammed on the emergency stop button. Nothing happened and the cage crashed down to the bottom of the pit some 1320 feet below ground. The ascending cage crashed through the winding house roof. 13 men died at the scene and another 5 men died later in hospital. The other 11 men in the cage and one rescue worker were very seriously injured and were taken to hospital at Chesterfield.



Walking Together

Markham Vale Mining Memorial Heritage Trail

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|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Alberry Henry 4 | Commons John William W 12 | Hibbard Joseph 14 | Moreton Charles 19 | Turner Charles Richard 8 |
| Allen James 16 | Cooper Gordon Richard 4 | Hill Clarence 10 | Palmer Clarence C 7 | Tyler Albert 3 |
| Atkin Leonard 4 | Cowley George 6 | Hudson Henry 12 | Pether George Edward 21 | Wale Herbert 2 |
| Baggaley Edward 2 | Davidson George 16 | Jacklin Lawrence 16 | Pickering William 6 | Wallace Benjamin 11 |
| Bann David 13 | Eyre George 9 | Jackson George Henry 10 | Plewinski Lucjan Julian 8 | Watson William Wilkinson 18 |
| Bell Albert 6 | Frost Walter James 17 | Jones Enoch 2 | Reddish Fred 10 | Whelpdale Denton 4 |
| Birkin Joseph 11 | Furniss Alfred 1 | Jones Frank 7 | Richards Mark 6 | Whelpton William Edward 12 |
| Bluer Walter 21 | Furniss Joseph 1 | Jones Thomas 2 | Roddy Frederick 5 | White Alfred 7 |
| Bown Charles 9 | Garland Alfred 6 | Kaminski Jan 8 | Rodgers Albert Ernest 20 | Whitehead Redvers Baden 14 |
| Bradford John Henry 18 | Geary Joseph 1 | Keller Leonard 18 | Rodgers Wilfred 8 | Whitley George 7 |
| Bray John Arnold 21 | Gee-Pemberton Colin 17 | Kerry Samuel 16 | Roper Arthur 6 | Williams Matthew 15 |
| Bray Samuel Frederick 17 | Grainger Ambrose 18 | Kilroy Michael 10 | Rowland James Stanley 20 | Wood Robert Henry 20 |
| Briggs Clarence 11 | Grainger John William 18 | Kirk Rowe 6 | Salt Samuel Edward D 13 | Yates Thomas George 5 |
| Brocklehurst Joseph William 10 | Grainger Robert Emlen 18 | Lamb Alfred 15 | Sherwin William Henry 3 | Yates William 19 |
| Brooks Clifford 11 | Gregory Bernard 15 | Lavender Harry 21 | Silcock Clarence 13 | |
| Brough Herbert 17 | Gregson Robert 14 | Lievesley John William 5 | Simms Robert 20 | |
| Brown Arthur 3 | Hadley John William 13 | Lilley Joseph 13 | Sissons Charles Leonard 19 | |
| Brown John Thomas 3 | Hardy Joseph 9 | Linathan Felix Leonard A 14 | Slater Wilfred Edmund 18 | |
| Buckley George Cyril Foulds 11 | Hargreaves Herbert Jnr 19 | Lodge Stanley 18 | Smith Edmund 1 | |
| Cadywould Leonard 5 | Hargreaves Herbert Snr 19 | Marsden Ralph 4 | Smith Frank 15 | |
| Carter Arthur 15 | Hargreaves Leslie 19 | May Arthur 5 | Stone Frank 8 | |
| Caldwell William Henry 3 | Haywood Wilfred 4 | McConnon John 15 | Taylor Fred 13 | |
| Chapman Henry 7 | Henson Arthur 20 | Monk Fred 7 | Taylor Harry 16 | |

21 To find a specific miner, please use the reference numbers 1-21 to find their general location.

