



Woodhorn Museum



What will I see?

An old colliery – coal mine – which has been incorporated into a museum. It not only tells the story of what it was like to be a coal miner but also the lives of their families and the decline of the mining industry in Northumberland. There is a permanent exhibition of the art of the Pitman Painters of Ashington.

How old is it?

The coal seams that Woodhorn Colliery mined are Carboniferous and are around 312 million years old. The mine itself began in 1894 and closed in 1981 as workable resources of coal declined.

Did you know?

That Woodhorn Colliery was once one of over 600 collieries in the Northumberland and Durham Coalfield. There are none today. The last one to close in Northumberland was Ellington in 2005. While coal and other fossil fuels are now, rightly, regarded as the cause of our changing climate, their impact on the culture and heritage of Northumberland should never be underestimated.

Why it is here?

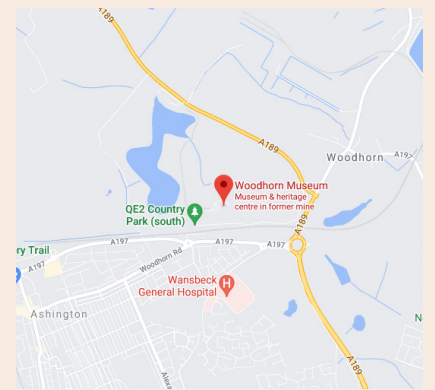
Woodhorn Colliery was one of many pits opened by businessmen and entrepreneurs in the 18th and 19th centuries to exploit the rich coal reserves underneath Northumberland. It is one of the few coal mine sites where the pit headgear and winding houses still survive – and can be visited.

And wildlife?

Birds such as long-tailed tit, jay and sparrowhawk may be found. The meadows, and other open areas, such as the narrow gauge railway track have interesting plants such as yellow-wort, and attract many bees and hoverflies.

Where is it?

Just north east of Ashington on the A189 [NZ289885].



Want to know more?

- **Woodhorn Museum**
- NNP Geodiversity Audit
- Onshore GeoIndex
- iGeology
- Geological history of Northumbria
- Carboniferous rocks

