



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

Markham Vale Mining Memorial Heritage Trail

Further information
markhamstorymine.org



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


Alberry Henry 4
Allen James 16
Atkin Leonard 4
Baggaley Edward 2
Bann David 13
Bell Albert 6
Birkin Joseph 11
Bluer Walter 21
Bown Charles 9
Bradford John Henry 18
Bray John Arnold 21
Bray Samuel Frederick 17
Briggs Clarence 11
Brocklehurst Joseph William 10
Brooks Clifford 11
Brough Herbert 17
Brown Arthur 3
Brown John Thomas 3
Buckley George Cyril Foulds 11
Cadywould Leonard 5
Carter Arthur 15
Cauldwell William Henry 3
Chapman Henry 7

Commons John William W 12
Cooper Gordon Richard 4
Cowley George 6
Davidson George 16
Eyre George 9
Frost Walter James 17
Furniss Alfred 1
Furniss Joseph 1
Garland Alfred 6
Geary Joseph 1
Gee-Pemberton Colin 17
Grainger Ambrose 18
Grainger John William 18
Grainger Robert Emlen 18
Gregory Bernard 15
Gregson Robert 14
Hadley John William 13
Hardy Joseph 9
Hargreaves Herbert Jnr 19
Hargreaves Herbert Snr 19
Hargreaves Leslie 19
Haywood Wilfred 4
Henson Arthur 20

Hibbard Joseph 14
Hill Clarence 10
Hudson Henry 12
Jacklin Lawrence 16
Jackson George Henry 10
Jones Enoch 2
Jones Frank 7
Jones Thomas 2
Kaminski Jan 8
Keller Leonard 18
Kerry Samuel 16
Kilroy Michael 10
Kirk Rowe 6
Lamb Alfred 15
Lavender Harry 21
Lievesley John William 5
Lilley Joseph 13
Linathan Felix Leonard A 14
Lodge Stanley 18
Marsden Ralph 4
May Arthur 5
McConnon John 15
Monk Fred 7

Moreton Charles 19
Palmer Clarence C 7
Pether George Edward 21
Pickering William 6
Plewinski Lucjan Julian 8
Reddish Fred 10
Richards Mark 6
Roddy Frederick 5
Rodgers Albert Ernest 20
Rodgers Wilfred 8
Roper Arthur 6
Rowland James Stanley 20
Salt Samuel Edward D 13
Sherwin William Henry 3
Silcock Clarence 13
Simms Robert 20
Sissons Charles Leonard 19
Slater Wilfred Edmund 18
Smith Edmund 1
Smith Frank 15
Stone Frank 8
Taylor Fred 13
Taylor Harry 16

Turner Charles Richard 8
Tyler Albert 3
Wale Herbert 2
Wallace Benjamin 11
Watson William Wilkinson 18
Whelpdale Denton 4
Whelpton William Edward 12
White Alfred 7
Whitehead Redvers Baden 14
Whitley George 7
Williams Matthew 15
Wood Robert Henry 20
Yates Thomas George 5
Yates William 19

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

