



# New Landscape under construction at Calverton

**Heathland which was once very common in Nottinghamshire is now a rare occurrence. A restoration scheme aims to encourage bio-diversity on the site of the former Calverton Colliery by creating woodland, grassland and heathland with full public access.**

## **Restoration work starts at former Colliery Site**

In 1999 the licensee handed the Calverton Colliery site, situated approximately 8 miles from Nottingham, back to the Authority. At that time attempts to identify an alternative mine operator were made but proved to be unsuccessful.

Work then commenced to develop plans for the restoration of the site in accordance with the planning conditions set out by Nottinghamshire County Council.

In May 2003 the Authority awarded a contract to restore the tips and lagoons situated on the site of the former colliery in order to provide an array of commercial and amenity woodland, grassland and heathland with full public access.

The Forestry Commission has been involved since the outset in the planning of the restoration, as they are the freehold owners of the site. The work is being carried out by Walters UK Limited under the supervision of Scott Wilson Kirkpatrick & Co consulting engineers. The work will be carried out in two main phases.





## Phase 1 Capping and Filling of Lagoons.

The first phase of the schemes will see the three large lagoons located on the site capped and filled. This process will involve nearly two million cubic metres of material being moved around the site.

The tip will also undergo a process of reprofiling as part of the capping operations. This will reduce the steep slopes thus providing levels and contours, all of which have already been agreed with the local planning authority.

The final stage of the first phase will see the surface of the site soiled and fertilised in preparation for planting.



## Phase 2 Final landscaping of the site.

The landscaping scheme has been designed to utilise almost 100 hectares of the site. A mixture of commercial woodland (30 hectares), amenity woodland (42 hectares) and heathland (22 hectares) will all be created where the colliery once stood.

In total almost a quarter of a million trees will be planted on the site. The trees selected will be a mixture of species that will fit in with those already established in the region. These will also help to encourage wildlife into the area.

The recreation of heathland holds special importance to the north Nottinghamshire area as it was once very common but is now rare in the locality.

The restoration work should be completed by the end of 2004 and will be followed by a three year aftercare period. During this time the site will be maintained and cared for, including the replacement of any plants or trees that fail to become established.

Following this period of aftercare the site will be handed over to the Forestry Commission who will then open it for public use.

