

DUDLEY: PROUD OF THE PAST, POSITIVE FOR THE FUTURE

Historic Dudley

The Polar Bear Pit, one of many important listed structures designed for Dudley Zoo in the 1930s by the famous Architect Berthold Lubetkin.



The Wrens Nest National Geological Reserve - home of the famous "Dudley Bug" fossil.



A modern mosaic, illustrating monastic life, which can be found in Priory Park, adjacent to the ruins of St James's Priory.

Dudley Castle's medieval lords could overlook vast estates whose natural and human resources helped shape today's Black Country. Using the mineral wealth bequeathed by Dudley's geological past, black country folk helped power the industrial revolution.

By 1868, the Black Country could be described as "black by day and red by night" unmatched for "vast and varied production" (a quote by Elihu Burritt, the American philanthropist). The great and growing population of the area frequently found its entertainment on Castle Hill, at castle fetes or even during artificially lit extravaganzas in the limestone caverns underfoot - which included a famous lecture on Dudley's geology attended by 15,000 people. This tradition was carried on in the opening of Dudley Zoo in 1937 and, latterly, the Black Country Living Museum.

Today the whole of the Black Country's history, from geological times to the recent past, can be explored within a stone's throw of Dudley Town Centre.



The Black Country Living Museum - discover a fascinating world when you visit this urban heritage park.



An 18th century perspective of Dudley Castle - today the newly restored ruins contain a state of the art visual show re-telling the Castle's turbulent history.

