

22 TRIMDON GRANGE QUARRY

The reserve comprises an abandoned Magnesian Limestone Quarry with a distinctive flora, complemented by mature hawthorn scrub and developing ash woodland.



Above: Trimdon Quarry



Above: Autumn Gentian

Below: Primrose



The exposed cliff faces of the abandoned old quarry are superb examples of the Middle Magnesian Limestone. The flat quarry floor has established as secondary Magnesian Limestone grassland, which is a nationally scarce habitat. This comprises short, herb rich grassland and the species found are characteristic of this habitat. They include, Blue-Moor Grass, Quaking Grass and Glaucous Sedge, together with a range of herbs such as Carline Thistle, Autumn Gentian, Blue Fleabane and the very scarce but attractive Bee Orchid.

The reserve also includes an area of species rich neutral grassland surrounded by a very distinctive area of mature Hawthorn and Elder scrub with a rich bryophyte and lichen flora. This grades into developing Ash woodland, which provides excellent breeding and roosting habitat for a variety of woodland birds.

The quarry and adjacent Raisby Way disused railway line have been designated as a Local Nature Reserve. Linear features such as this provide excellent habitats for a range of birds and invertebrates and the railway line is particularly important for butterflies such as Dingy Skipper which thrives on the short turf, species rich grassland found here. Other butterflies include Common Blue, Ringlet, Orange Tip, Small Copper and the beautiful Burnet moth.

Brown Hare and Foxes are frequently seen on the reserve

Best seen – April to July for orchids, June/July for butterflies and limestone flora

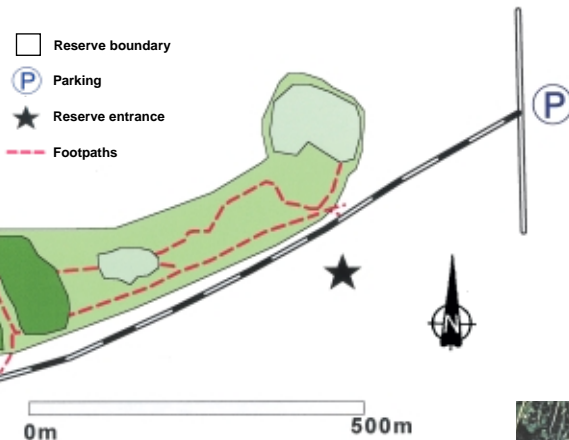


Above: Twayblade

Below: Brown Hare



TRIMDON GRANGE QUARRY



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General Information

Ownership:
Leased from Durham County Council

Area: 5 hectares

Grid Reference:
NZ 362 353

O.S. Explorer Map No: 305

Parking access to site:
Limited roadside parking at entrance to Raisby Way railway line

Public transport:
Bus services to Trimdon/Trimdon Grange, then a walk of up to one mile to the site.

Dogs: Dogs must be kept under control at all times

Accessibility: ▲▲▲▲

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Management

The management on this reserve involves scrub removal, that would otherwise encroach upon the grasslands and out compete the delicate flowering plants, and the cutting and removal of grass from the quarry floor and the species rich meadow. This is to prevent an accumulation of fertility in the soil that would eventually allow the competitive species to dominate.

Management of the dense, mature Hawthorn scrub will focus on rotational clearance to improve the structure and allow some light into the field layer which should encourage the growth of ground flora

The reserve is managed in partnership with English Nature under the "Reserves Enhancement Scheme".



Carline Thistle

Bee Orchid – this exotic looking plant was believed to utilise mimicry to attract bees to pollinate it. In Britain however the flowers are self pollinating so this appears to be a romantic myth.



Bee Orchid

Greater knapweed



Location

The reserve is located approximately 1 mile north west of Trimdon Village. Starting from the village Village, head towards Trimdon Grange, but take the left fork after you leave Trimdon Village. After approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ mile this road crosses an old railway line where there is a padlocked gate on the left. Limited parking is available on the road side.