

## ALLOTMENTS

There are more than 30 allotments at Hill Hole Quarry. They are provided by Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council (Tel. 01455 238141).

Allotments are a great way to grow your own food and keep healthy.

To the south of the allotments is an area where a small community orchard is growing. So far damsons, plums, apples and pears have been planted.

It is hoped that many local varieties of fruit will be planted. 'Merryweather' damson and 'Bramley Seedling' apples are two local varieties which have already been planted. Both were first grown in Northamptonshire in the 19th century.

### Other fruit varieties currently planted are:

**Plum** (Coe's Golden Drop)

**Apple** (Discovery)

**Pear** (Conference)

**Pear** (Williams Bon Chretien)



## THE NATIONAL FOREST

The National Forest is an area of almost 200 square miles where a forest for the nation is being developed. Set in the heart of England, the National Forest will be a patchwork of woodland, farms, open countryside, towns and villages.

From the very start the Forest has been developed as a major national and local focus for recreation and there are already a wide variety of walks within it.

The National Forest Company is spearheading the creation of the Forest.

There are already many other National Forest sites which you may like to visit. Billa Barra Hill near Bardon and Bagworth Heath Woods near Bagworth are two such examples.

For more information about the National Forest. Tel. 01283 551211 or visit 'Conkers' Visitor Centre at Moira.

[www.nationalforest.org](http://www.nationalforest.org)



THE NATIONAL FOREST



## HISTORY

Markfield 'Knoll Hill' was once one of four whole granite hills in the area, the other three being Billa Barrow, (now called Billa Barra), Cliffe Hill and Bardon. Trees once covered the hill top, but they were felled to be used as pit props in Desford Colliery in 1916. A windmill was definitely standing here in 1743.

Breedon Everard, who lived at Groby Hall, opened the quarry in 1852. He had previously quarried at Billa Barrow. With so many men moving in, new houses had to be built, with 'New Row' behind the Parish Church being just one example. They started work young in those days, with the youngest quarry worker recorded being 9 year old Michael Russell.

The quarry was a dangerous place to work with at least 6 men dying there during the latter half of the nineteenth century. Quarry dust was a continual problem too and in the old days, the men grew long moustaches, to stop dust going up their noses.

In the early 1950's the East Anglian coast was lashed by gales. Hill Hole Quarry waste from the adjacent 'Jimmy Gunn's Tip', was taken there to help repair the damage.



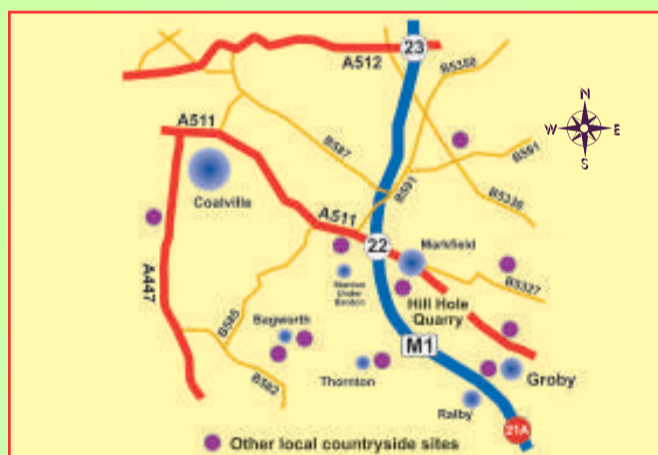
## THE RANGER SERVICE

The Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council Ranger Service who look after this site, is based at the Burbage Common Visitor Centre, which is situated at the B4668 entrance to Burbage Common and Woods Local Nature Reserve near Hinckley.

The staff organise guided walks, talks and occasional conservation tasks. They are always pleased to help schools, other groups and individuals and welcome enquiries.

The Rangers are also responsible for several other sites within the Borough including the nature area which adjoins Groby Pool car park, Billa Barra Hill Local Nature Reserve, Manor Farm Community Orchard and Nature Reserve at Bagworth, and several small picnic areas.

Other Ranger Services that work in the area include County Council Rangers based at Beacon Hill and Bosworth Battlefield, Severn Trent Rangers at Thornton Reservoir and the Bradgate Park Rangers. Many of the nature reserves in the area are owned and managed by Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust.



### TO CONTACT THE RANGERS:

Telephone: 01455 633712.

The site is owned and managed by Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council Leisure Services, c/o Council Offices, The Hinckley Hub, Rugby Road, Hinckley, Leicestershire, LE10 0FR Tel. 01455 238141.

[www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk](http://www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk)



FLAG (Forward with Leicestershire Aggregates Grants) has funded a range of environmental and access improvements at Hill Hole Quarry and has contributed to the production of this leaflet.



Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council



THE NATIONAL FOREST

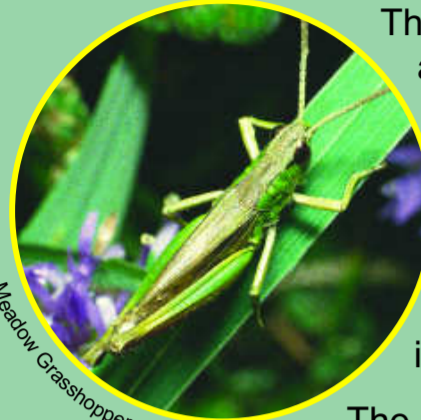
## Hill Hole Quarry NATURE RESERVE





# Welcome To Hill Hole Quarry Local Nature Reserve

## HAY MEADOW



The smell of new mown hay is becoming a rare sensation, and yet there are more types of flower and insect found in a meadow that has never seen fertiliser or pesticide than anywhere else in the UK.

Lady's Bedstraw is one of the flowers that grows in the meadow. This flower gets its name from the old custom of including it in straw mattresses, particularly those used in the beds of women about to give birth.

The meadow can also be a good place to spot grasshoppers. At least two types can be found - the mainly brown coloured Field Grasshopper and the mainly green coloured Meadow Grasshopper. Both types will be heard before you see them, as they make a distinctive chirring noise. This sound comes from rubbing their back leg against a hardened vein on their wings.

## WATER FILLED QUARRY

Although it is not safe to go too close to the quarry, you may still be able to see gulls and ducks floating on the surface of the water. At its deepest the water is 5m deep and is the home of several species of fish including Roach and Perch.



It is also home to one of the UK's rarest and critically endangered creatures - the native North Atlantic (White-clawed) Crayfish. These tiny creatures are fast disappearing from rivers and streams throughout Britain when they are

infected and die from a fungal disease that is spreading through the river systems. The disease became a problem in this country when the North American Signal Crayfish was 'farmed' for use in the food industry.

Sites such as Hill Hole Quarry that are isolated from the river systems are becoming rare and therefore more important as habitats for these delightful creatures.

## WOODLAND



The small copse of trees is probably much older than it looks.

The trees are growing in such an exposed place they grow much slower than you might expect. Perhaps you can find a tree stump where you can count the annual growth rings to see how old the tree was.

The main type of tree growing in the copse is Pedunculate Oak, but you can also find the occasional Downy Birch and Rowan.

The copse can be the best place to look for birds, with most of the common woodland birds likely to be feeding on the many insects found in oak woodland. Great Spotted Woodpecker, Nuthatch and Treecreeper are three types to look for.

## ROCK FACES AND OUTCROPS



From a distance, it is hard to imagine that anything could live in such a hostile place and yet some of the most specialised and rare plants at Hill Hole Quarry are found on the sheer rocks. Lichens are a combination of an alga and a fungus, and they grow very slowly in these inhospitable places. Certain types of lichen will only grow in places where there isn't much air pollution. Unfortunately none of these can be found at Hill Hole Quarry - can you think of a reason why?

On a warm sunny spring morning you may be lucky enough to come across a Common Lizard sunning itself on a rock. The lizards are warming themselves up so that they can get their body to the correct temperature. They are often known as cold-blooded creatures but once they have been basking in the sun for some time this description might not be too accurate!

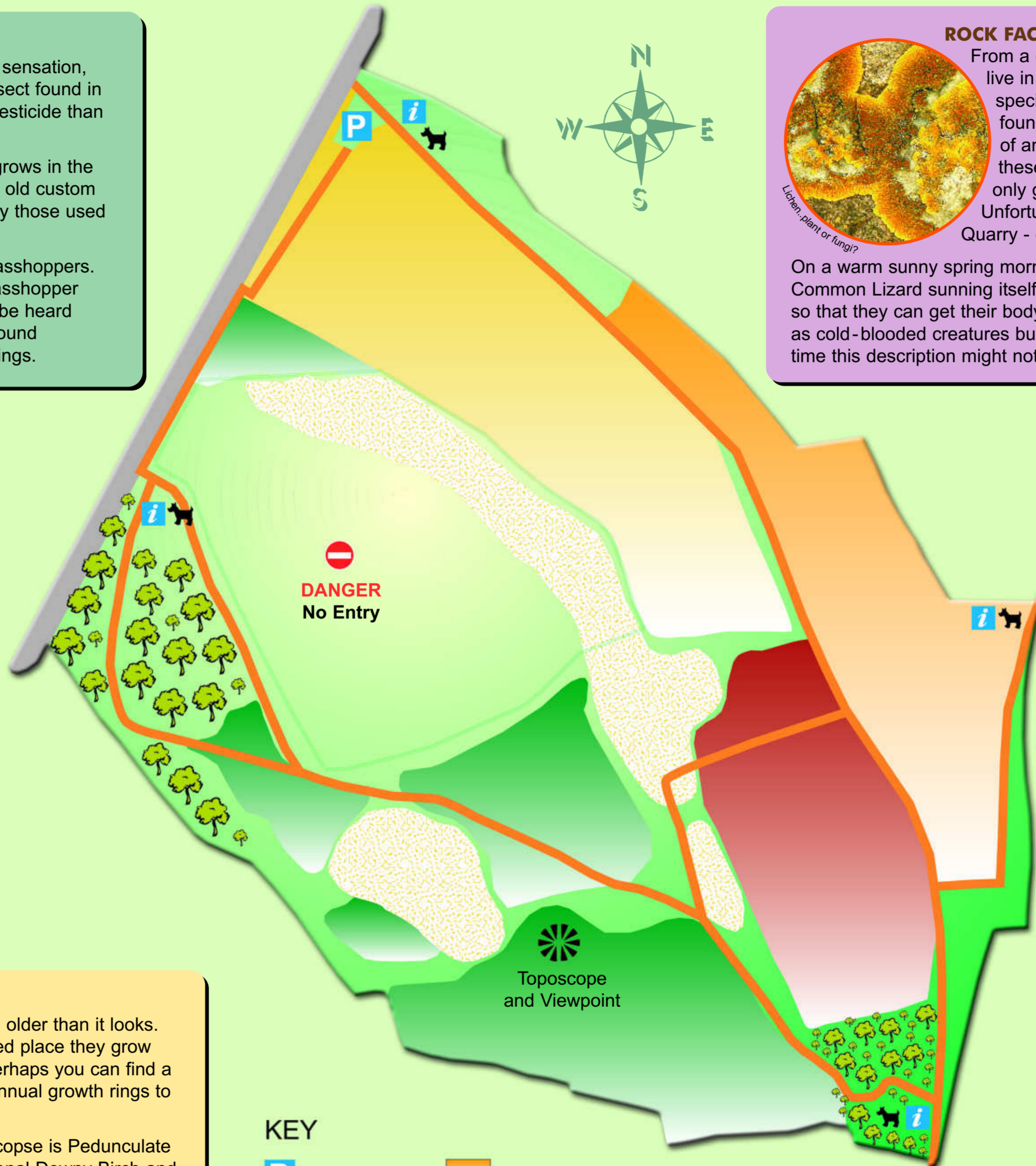


## HEATH GRASSLAND

If you search in the fine grasses at the top of the hill, you may well find the occasional heather plant. This type of heather is known as Ling and like many of the other plants at Hill Hole Quarry it is usually found in heathlands. Gorse, Broom, Bracken and Wavy-haired Grass also grow on the acid soils associated with heathlands.

The short grassland is a good place to spot or hear a Green Woodpecker. These large green birds with their startling red crowns can often be heard a long time before you see them. Their call is best described as manic laughter but technically it's known as yaffling.

Ants are what the Green Woodpecker is searching for in the short grass, but many other insects can be found flying around the gorse and brambles. A warm summer day will see the site swarming with butterflies, from the fairly common Peacock, Small Tortoiseshell and Meadow Brown to the much rarer Wall Brown, you may even see one of the day-flying moths, the bright red 6-Spot Burnet. See how many types of butterfly you spot on your visit, and try to count how many there are of each type.



## KEY

	Car Park		Allotments		Security Fence
	Information Point		Former Allotments		Heath Grassland
	Main Paths		Gorse and Rock Faces		Open Water
	Dog Waste Bin		Meadow		