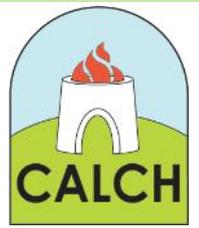


Nature Trail



If you are visiting the Black Mountain quarries, why not see if you can find any of the items in the pictures below?

Please do not to pick wildflowers but to leave them for others (and bees) to enjoy!



Mossy Saxifrage



Butterwort



Hairy Rock Cress



Violets



Tufa



Can you find a fossil?

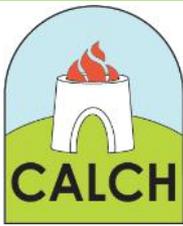


Thyme



Lichen





Nature Trail



Mossy saxifrage is a low growing, evergreen perennial plant forming dense mats of foliage. It likes to grow higher at altitudes, favouring rocky, exposed positions. Its flowers can be seen July to August.

Butterwort is an insectivorous plant. The bright yellow-green leaves of Common Butterwort excrete a sticky fluid which attracts insects. Once an insect gets trapped, the leaves slowly curl around their prey and digest it. Carnivorous butterworts like alkaline soil where nutrients are poor and the site is moist to boggy. Its purple flowers can be seen May to July



Hairy Rock Cress is usually only a foot high, with hairy leaves on the lower half of the stem pointing upwards, and many longish seed pods on the upper half, both close to the stem. This plant likes to grow near rocky outcrops. Its flowers can be seen in June.

The Common Dog Violet is most often found on short, grazed calcareous turf and limestone scree. Violets flower from April to August and butterflies use them as an early source of nectar.



Tufa is normally only found in underground cave systems. At Herbert's Quarry tufa has formed above ground! As water rises from below ground it washes through the spoil tips left over from making lime, and absorbs calcium hydroxide. As it reaches the surface the now alkaline water reacts with Carbon dioxide from the air and the calcium hydroxide turns into solid calcium carbonate also called Calcite.

Limestone is made from the remains of millions upon millions of tiny sea creatures that sank to the bottom of a shallow tropical sea when they died just over 300 million years ago, sea when Britain was on the equator! If you look carefully you may discover the fossil remains of some of these creatures in the limestone.



Thyme is a hardy plant which flowers June to August and gives off a strong aroma. Its flowers are purple in colour. It likes to grow in well drained chalky, sandy or alkaline soil. Bees love these flowers!

Lichens are made up of two different organisms, which form a symbiotic relationship with each other so that they both can survive. The fungus forms the visible part of the lichen. Inside, and protected by the fungus, are cells of an algae. The fungus obtains nutrients from the algae and in turn provides shelter for the algae allowing it to grow in harsh conditions such as rock surfaces where it would otherwise be destroyed.

