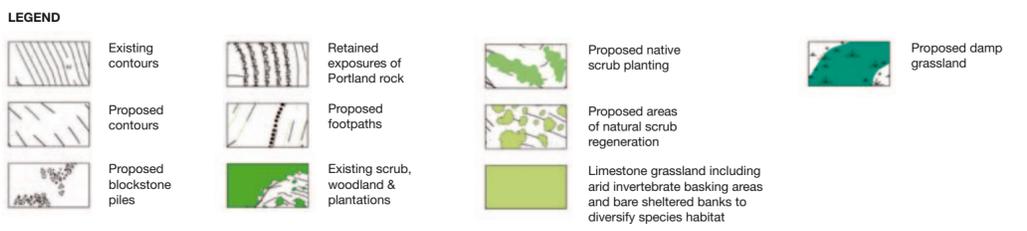
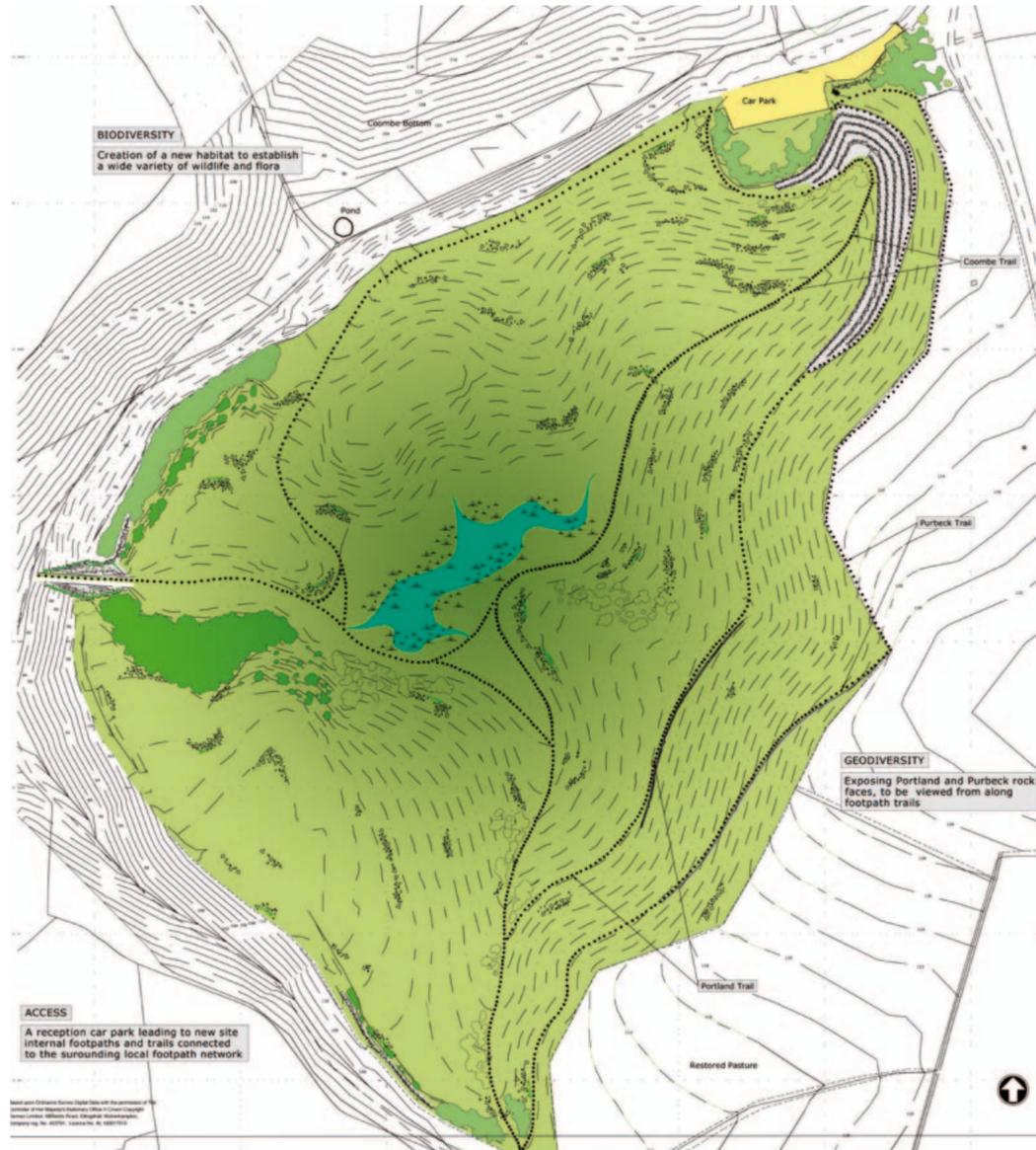


Suttles

Landscape Restoration



Swanworth Quarry is located in the Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and abuts the South Dorset Coast Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) which incorporates Hill Bottom and the valley leading from the Swanworth Quarry boundary to Chapman's pool.

The SSSI citation shows how important this area is. It says "The majority of unimproved limestone grassland in Dorset falls within this site (i.e. within the SSSI)... the character of the calcareous grasslands is strongly influenced by their maritime location ... among the many scarce and localised plants and animals are the largest national populations of two rare species – Early Spider Orchid *Ophrys sphegodes* and Lulworth Skipper butterfly *Thymelicus action*."

The aim of the restoration at Swanworth Quarry is to extend the area of limestone grassland that exists at Hill Bottom and in the valley, greatly increasing the extent of this increasingly rare habitat. Although it will take many years for the vegetation to fully develop into a mature limestone grassland community, the re-vegetation programme has already given it a head start.



Harebell *Campanula rotundiflora* – author Andrew Smith

Great care has been taken with the work. Firstly, no topsoil has been used on the re-vegetated areas. This is because a rich soil encourages weedy species and doesn't suit the typical limestone plants. Secondly, sowing has been carried out using locally collected seed because local plants are best adapted to the conditions on the site. The furthest distance seed has been brought is from a National Trust field at Acton, less than a mile away and most of the seed was collected from Hill Bottom. Some seed was hand collected and propagated at Emorsgate seeds to bulk up the quantity whereas other seed has been brush harvested locally.

Visitors can see areas at different stages of development. The most established area was sown in 1997 and the latest phase was completed in 2010. Limestone plant species are well established on the area and insects typically associated with those plants have begun to colonise, including the Lulworth skipper which is only found on the south Dorset coast.



Rest-harrow – author Ceridwen

Flowering plants to look out for:

- Small scabious *Scabiosa columbaria* (Flowers July – August)
- Common knapweed *Centaurea nigra* (Flowers June – September)
- Bird's-foot trefoil *Lotus corniculatus* (Flowers May – September)
- Wild thyme *Thymus drucei* (Flowers May – September)
- Harebell *Campanula rotundiflora* (Flowers July – September)
- Pale flax *Linum bienne* (Flowers May – September)
- Rest-harrow *Ononis repens* (Flowers June – September)



Small skipper *Thymelicus sylvestris* – author Dixonsej

Butterflies and Moths to look out for:

- Lulworth Skipper *Thymelicus action*
Restricted to the grasslands of the south Dorset coast, this species flies in July and August. Larvae feed on Tor grass.
- Small skipper *Thymelicus sylvestris*
This is a wide-spread species in England and can be seen flying in July. The larvae feed on grasses, particularly Yorkshire fog.
- Common blue *Polyommatus icarus*

This is the most wide-spread blue butterfly, the males are a brilliant blue but the females tend to be rather brown. The underwings bare orange spots which are a little paler on the male. Adults fly in June and August – September.

The larvae feed mostly on bird's-foot trefoil.

Small Blue *Cupido minimus*

As the name suggests this is the smallest of the blue butterflies, it has a silvery blue appearance and unlike many other blues, the underwings have no orange markings. It has a patchy distribution in the UK. Generally the adults fly in June and again in August. The larvae feed only on Kidney vetch which is plentiful at Swanworth Quarry.

Small copper *Lycaena phlaeas*

This fairly common species is unmistakable, with bright copper forewings and large black patches on the rear wings. The adults fly through-out the summer and are easily spotted in July and August. The larval food plants are Common sorrel and Sheep's sorrel.

Marbled white *Melanargia galathea*

These butterflies are typical of unimproved grasslands, particularly on chalk and limestone. The adults fly throughout July and August and are easy to spot. The larvae feed on grasses mainly fescues, Yorkshire fog and Tor grass.

Grayling *Hipparchia semele*

In land populations of this species have declined in recent years and this is now a largely coastal species which requires dry soil with plenty of open ground. They are often found drinking at puddles. The adults fly from July – September and the larval food plants are fescue grasses.

Six-spot burnet moth *Zygaena filipendulae*

This is the commonest of the day flying burnet moths and occurs in large numbers at Swanworth quarry as their larval food plant, kidney vetch, is plentiful. They can be seen flying in July and August.

Six-belted clearwing *Bembecia ichneumoniformis*

This day flying moth is restricted to chalk and limestone grassland. The adults fly in July and August but are very hard to spot. Their larval food plants are Bird's-foot trefoil and Kidney vetch.



Six-spot burnet moth *Zygaena filipendulae* – author Barbara Smith