

Kestrel

Damsel Fly

Speckled Wood

Common Carder Bee

Four spotted Darter

Lichen

Common Spotted Orchid

Geology/Rock Formation

Old QUARRY Way 5K LOOP WALK

This 5k loop walk has been developed for your enjoyment. We hope this sign can provide an understanding of the tremendous biodiversity of the Old Quarry you pass along the route, which is largely not visible from the path.

Enjoy your walk!

The Old Cement Quarry

Located on the north-western edge of Drogheda Town, the old cement quarry is a large limestone quarry used by Irish Cement from 1937 to 1978. Between 1978 and 1999 it was used as the Drogheda Corporation landfill site. Following its abandonment, due to the lack of human interference, nature has taken a foothold and it is now a haven for urban wildlife.



Nature at its finest

Known as Brown Field Sites (abandoned industrial sites), these areas are often home to far more species of plants and animals than designated Nature Reserves, and play a vital role in protecting biodiversity in a time of species decline and habitat loss. The Old Quarry covering an area of around c.240 acres is now a sanctuary for a large variety of wildlife in an increasing urbanised landscape and a natural gem on our doorstep.

Geology

The rock quarried at Mell is Carboniferous limestone, from about 340 million years ago. It is classified as the Tullyallen Formation on the Geological Survey of Ireland's 1:100,000 bedrock map. Some glaciomarine sediments were also described from the site. It also shows a high degree of karstification throughout the different parts of the quarry. Virtually all accessible faces show cavities in a range of sizes. Most are small tubes and expanded joints, but there are larger infilled tubes and some open voids. Much of the solution that produced the cavities was probably post-glacial, occurring over the course of the last 10,000 years.

Habitats

All three quarries but in particular quarry 3 with its large meadow and water side vegetation provide excellent nesting habitats for a large variety of bird and insect species. In a time of habitat destruction, this is a welcome discovery.

Wild Flower Meadows
Trees & Hedgerows
Rocky Areas



DROGHEDA

Photography and text have been sourced from the work carried out by Tony Conaghy and his report 'Other Nations: Biodiversity at the Old Cement Quarry, Drogheda, Co. Louth'. Commissioned by Drogheda Tidy Towns.

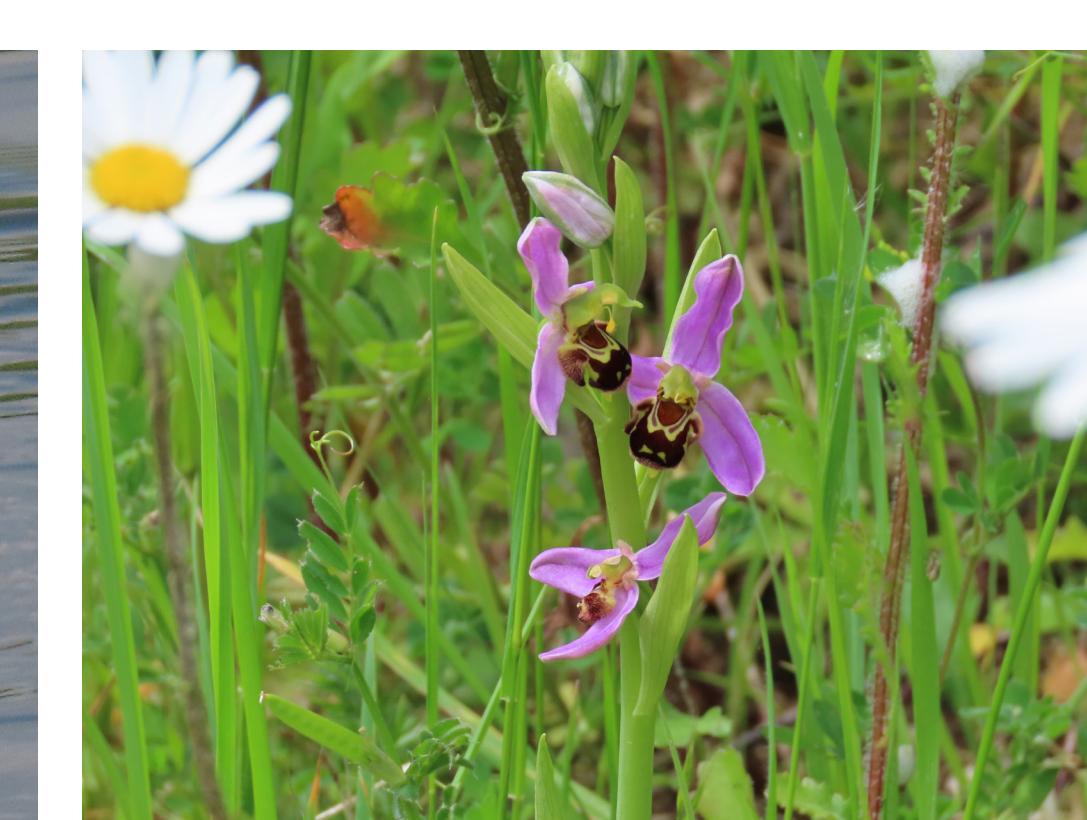
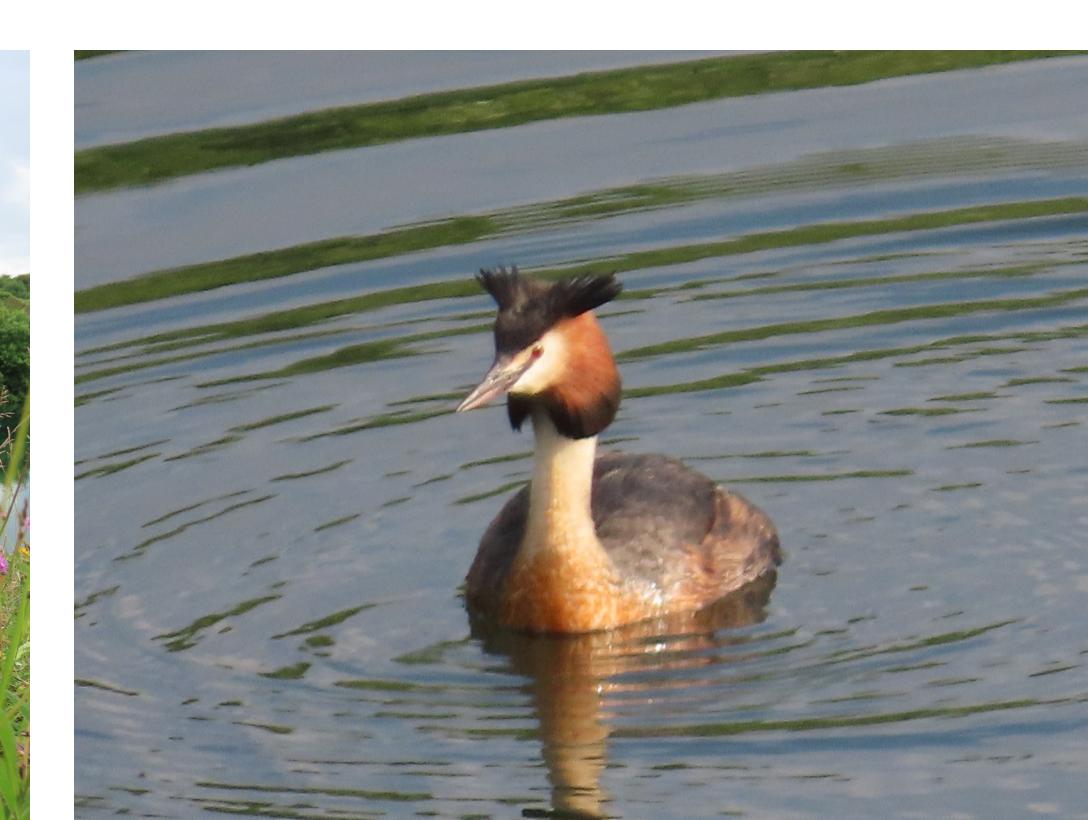
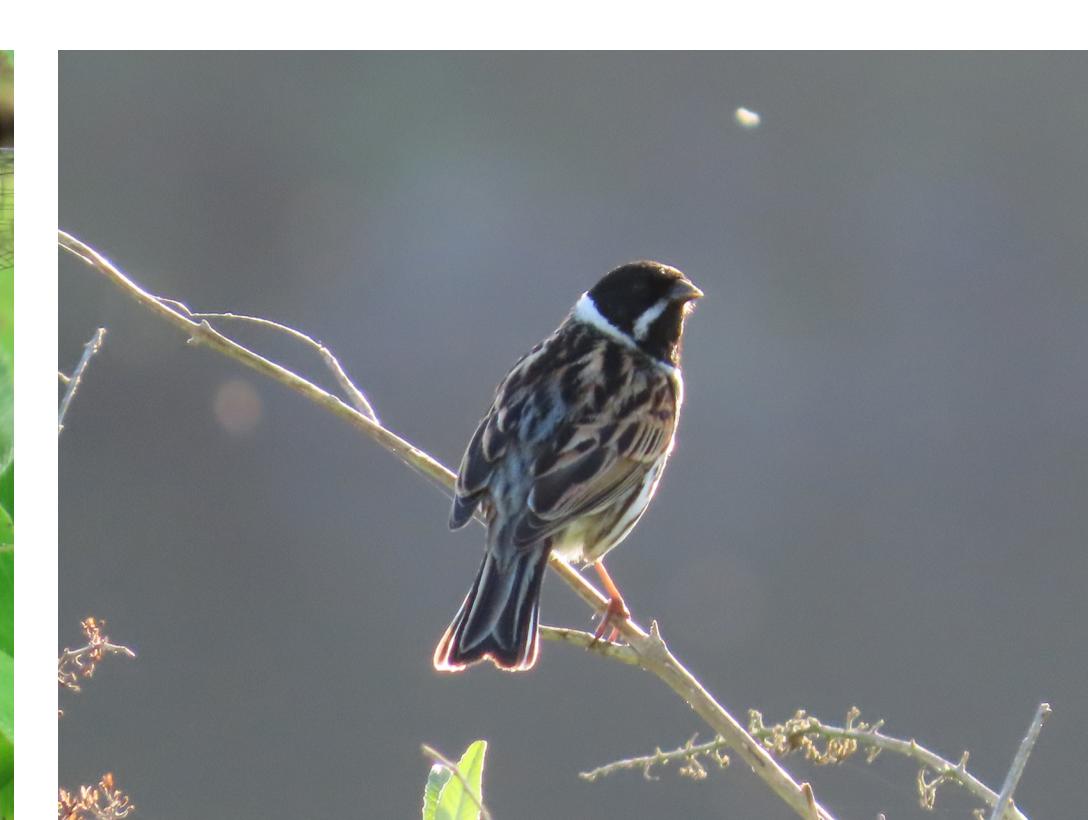
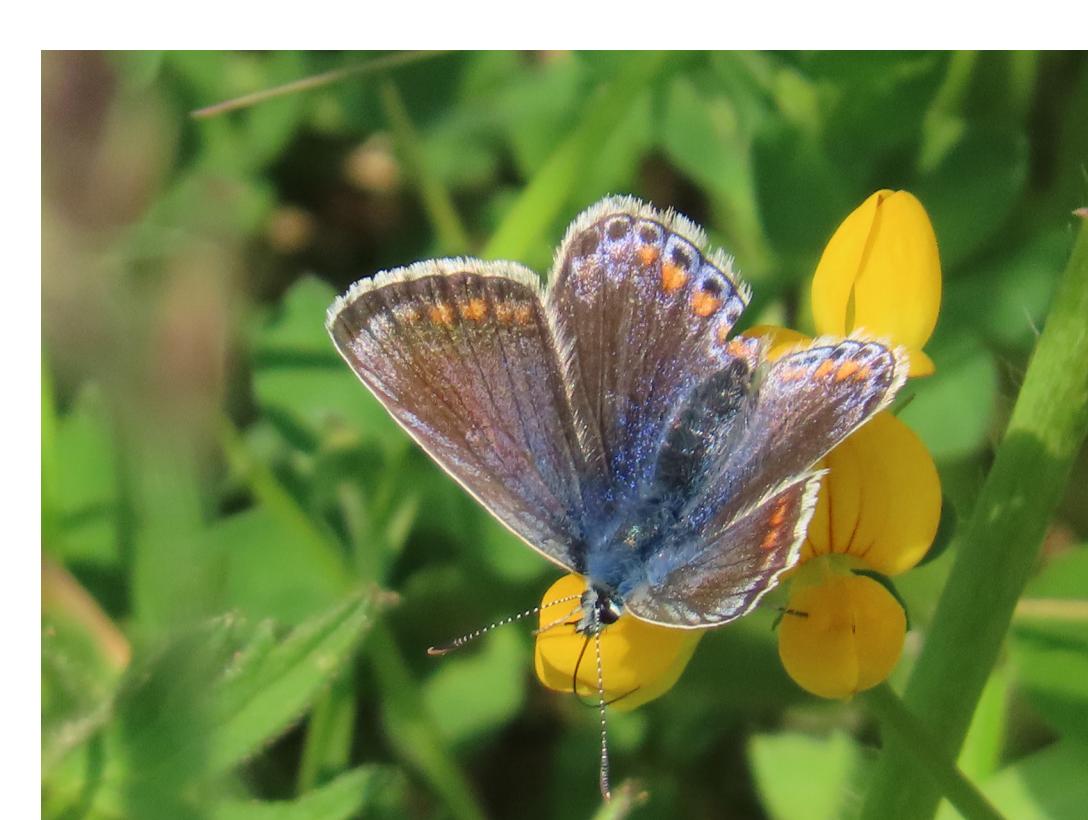
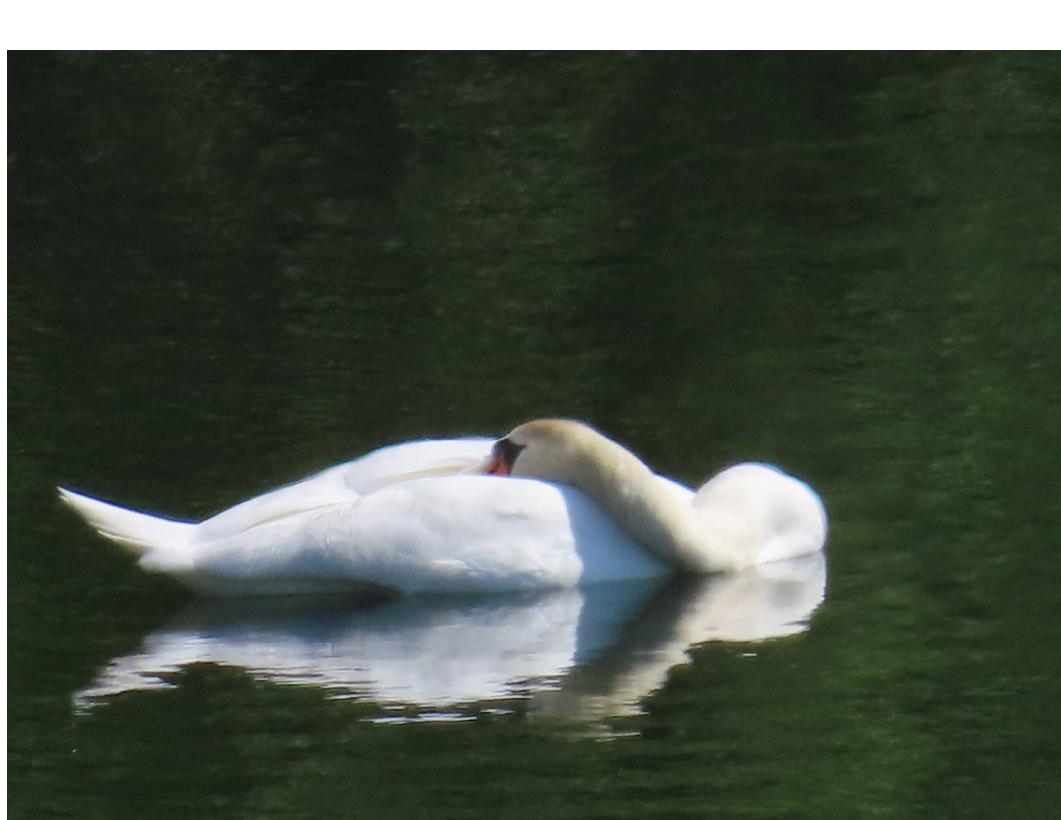
Fun Along the Way!

Waymarkers are positioned along the route at 1k intervals.

Tracing plates on each post can be used to take impressions using some paper and crayons or pencils. See how many you can collect.



QR codes can be scanned for further information about points of interest along the walk.



Mute Swan Resting

Common Blue (female)

Damsel Fly

Reed Bunting

Orchids and Wildflowers

Great Crested Grebe

Bee Orchids

Peregrine Falcon