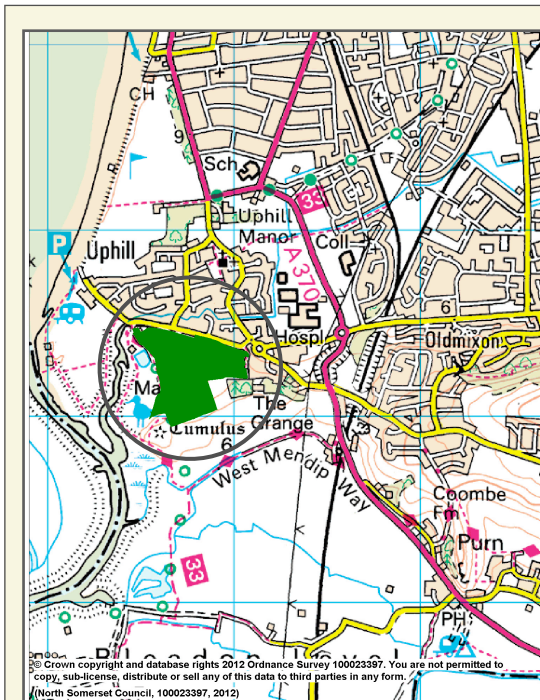
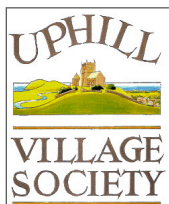




Uphill Hill Local Nature Reserve is located to the south of the village of Uphill, which is itself just south of Weston super Mare. This 17 hectare site is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and is part of the Mendip Limestone Grasslands Special Area of Conservation (SAC), supporting a diverse flora and valuable insect habitat.

The site lies on carboniferous limestone, which has been formed into a sheer face by quarrying at the western edge. A very diverse flora is found on the rock ledges of the disused quarry and steeper slopes of the Hill. An outstanding display of cowslips, primroses and green winged orchids covers the northern and eastern hill slopes in the Spring. The rest of the site is more level and gently sloping and consists of semi-improved calcareous grassland.

A tower tops the Hill and can be climbed for a panoramic view. Archaeological features include a disused lime kiln, a sheepwash and a powder house.



### Directions

**By Car:** Follow signs to Uphill Village from the southern end of Weston super Mare. Uphill leads towards the south end of Weston beach. Head towards the beach but turn in near the large sluice gates on the left and continue along the track towards the boat yard. A small car-park is situated at the reserve entrance, on the left hand side. There is also limited parking in spaces adjacent to Uphill Way.

**By Bus:** The number 5 FirstBus service from Worle and Weston-super-Mare serves Uphill. Alight at the boat yard entrance.

**By Foot:** The Tidal Trail runs through the west of the reserve and is suitable for disabled users and there are public footpaths across the Hill. Dog owners are respectfully asked to keep their dogs on a lead when grazing animals are on site.

[www.uphillvillage.org.uk](http://www.uphillvillage.org.uk)

# UPHILL HILL

## LOCAL NATURE RESERVE



## Visitors Guide



# Uphill Hill Local Nature Reserve

The Reserve is designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest because the wildlife found here is of national importance.



## Quarrying

The limestone exposed in the quarry face was formed three hundred million years ago when warm shallow blue seas covered most of Britain. Shells from marine animals settled on the sea floor to create rocks – Carboniferous Limestone. Since then huge forces in the earth's crust have lifted and folded the rocks to form Mendip, the upland area extending westward to Brea and east to Cheddar.

## The Lime Kiln

Limestone was quarried at uphill from the early 1860's to the 1940's for building stone, road and railway ballast and burned for quicklime. The remains of two limekilns can be found to the north of the quarry.

## Powder House

This is a nineteenth century store for explosives used to blast stone out of the quarry. The house is built of local limestone, set in mortar, and would

have had metal front doors, both to keep the material secure and to act as a 'sacrificial wall' which would blow out in the event of an explosion, hopefully preventing the stone walls from being blown apart. The remains of internal shelving can also be seen as slots in the interior wall.

## The Enclosure

A safety fence keeping people from the quarry face forms The Enclosure. The area is carpeted with many important species of wildflower including knapweed, honewort, vetches, carline thistles, autumn gentians and many others. Soay sheep are grazed here from October to December to keep the grass short to encourage the flowering plants.

## The Sheep Wash

This structure is a stock pond and sheep wash constructed, probably in the nineteenth century, from local limestone and mortar to provide water for cattle and a place to wash sheep in order to clean their fleeces and reduce the number of parasites that they carried.

## The Salt Marsh

This has a number of nationally scarce plants including sea barley, slender hare ear and sea clover on its upper reaches some of them on the sea wall. Patches of sea-lavender lend a splash of colour in the late summer. It is intended to allow the sea to once again inundate the low lying field behind the Victorian sea wall and expand this area of salt marsh.

## St. Nicholas Church

The St. Nicholas old church is an early Norman church dating from the late 11th century AD, which served the medieval port of Uphill.

## The Tower

The hill top is a traditional beacon site and continues to be used as such today with a beacon being housed at the top of the Tower, which is the ruin of an old windmill but may have been a stone watch tower in the sixteenth century.

## PLEASE follow the Countryside Code:

Be safe – plan ahead and follow any signs | leave gates and property as you find them | protect plants and animals and take your litter home | keep dogs under close control | consider other people



# Uphill Local Nature Reserve



Chalkhill blue



Uphill Meadow in Spring



Bee Orchid

Uphill Hill Local Nature Reserve, Uphill Down or Meadow is covered with flower rich grassland that supports many insects, particularly butterflies.

The limestone grassland is a SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) and is part of the Mendip Limestone Grasslands Special Area of Conservation (SAC), with an exceptionally rich flora including a number of nationally rare species. These include Somerset hair-grass and honewort. Also here are green-winged and early purple orchid, autumn lady's tresses and abundant cowslips.

The best areas of grassland are on the steeper slopes. The area is important for butterflies including brown argus, grizzled and dingy skipper and grayling.

The adjacent Walborough Nature Reserve, owned and managed by Avon Wildlife Trust has salt marsh and limestone grassland with rare plants and insects.

Grazing forms an important method of grassland management and creates the ideal conditions for the spread of delicate plants. Cattle graze the hill mainly during summer and autumn

## Through The Seasons

### Winter

Flocks of redwing and fieldfare can be seen feeding on the hawthorn berries in the thick hedges. Kestrels, buzzards and ravens fly over in search for food and little owls have a home in the quarry. The west side of the hill overlooks the River Axe, where dunlin, redshank, oystercatchers and curlew can be

seen and heard. Violets and whitlow grass are the first flowers along with lesser celandine.

### Spring

The hedges provide nest sites for greenfinches, chaffinches, blue and great tits, linnets, migratory birds such as the chiff chaff and whitethroat and many other native birds. Areas of the hill turn purple with green-winged orchids, yellow with cowslips and the rare honewort starts to flower. Butterflies seen include the small tortoiseshell, peacock and red admiral.

### Summer

The hill is yellow with buttercups and yellow rattle. Other flowers include fairy flax, salad burnet, wild clary, wild thyme, milkwort and bee orchids. Musk, spear, stemless, carline and creeping thistles can be found. Three vetches – bird's-foot-trefoil, kidney and horseshoe, important food plants for caterpillars of the green hairstreak and chalk-hill blue butterflies. Other butterflies to be seen are marbled white, gatekeeper and meadow brown.

### Autumn

Sloes, blackberries, hips and haws colour the hedges whilst bristly oxtongue, field scabious, black kapweed, yellow-wort and autumn lady's-tresses flower. Great green bush crickets and many grasshoppers can be seen and heard. Clouded yellow, painted lady and speckled wood butterflies are often seen still flying and the brimstone makes a reappearance. House martins and swallows gather over the top of the quarry before flying to Africa and other migratory birds fly over. Fungi, the natural decomposers, can be found mainly in the autumn.