Old Burghclere Lime Quarry

Abandoned lime workings now a refuge for rare flowers and butterflies.



Habitat Type	*Chalk grassland in old quarry workings*
Size of Reserve	*5 hectares / 13 acres*
Special Features	SSSI
OS Map Number	*174*
Grid Reference	*SU 472 574*
Nearest Town	*2.5 miles south of Burghclere*
Nearest Rail Station	*Newbury - 6 miles*
Tourist Information	*Newbury 01635 30267*
Best Time to Visit	*Summer - flowers / butterflies*

HOW TO GET THERE

From Basingstoke take the A339 towards Newbury. At the Kingsclere roundabout turn left into Newbury road, continue straight on into Fox's Lane and follow this road through Sydmonton to Old Burghclere. In Old Burghclere where the road bends sharply to the right (in front of the church) turn left into the little road and left again after 100m into the railway yard where you may park. Walk down the road and after 300m turn left between the houses. Follow the track through the field and the reserve is directly ahead of you.

Bus route to and from Kingsclere through Old Burghclere, route 123/124.

ACCESS

Please contact the Wildlife Trust for a permit due to the sensitive nature of this site. There is a circular walk around the site, which can be uneven and steep in places. The path may become slippery in wet conditions.



Fly Orchids
Photo by Phil McLean



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SITE DESCRIPTION

This steep sided quarry has provided ideal conditions for many rare plants specialised to chalky rough ground. The steep sides around the quarry mean that it is sheltered and warm which has resulted in good populations of butterflies. To maintain the open grassland the scrub is controlled.

WILDLIFE

- Fly Orchids can be found growing on the quarry floor.
- Small Blue butterflies can be found at this site. Their caterpillars feed on Kidney Vetch.

NEARBY SITES OF INTEREST

The Chase Wildlife Reserve - *see page 42*
A small area of alder woodland surrounded by conifer plantation.

Headley Gravel Pit Wildlife Reserve
- see page 66
Naturally restored gravel workings with rich and diverse grassland.