

# “Selsley Common - help us look after it”

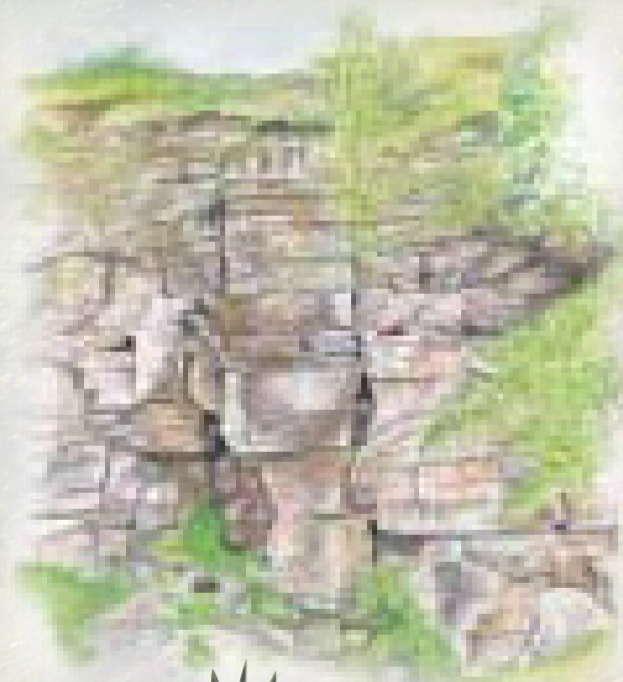
Welcome to Selsley Common. The steep slopes of rare, unimproved grassland are of national importance and designated a ‘Site of Special Scientific Interest’ for their plant and animal species.

The limestone was formed 180 million years ago in Jurassic times. You may find fossils of coral, shellfish and snails which sank into the mud below the sea that covered this area at that time.

## Jackdaw (Leigh’s) Quarry

You can see layers of different sedimentary rock at this quarry that show the changes over millions of years. Some of this stone was quarried and used to build walls and make lime.

The Leigh family used the big blocks to help build Woodchester Mansion as it was part of their estate.



Jackdaw

Today the quarry is home to many jackdaws. You may also see kestrels, buzzards and even ravens hunting and flying over the common here.



Meadow Pipit

Skylark

Green Woodpecker

While walking, you may disturb ground nesting birds like skylarks and meadow pipits.

The rare, unimproved grassland of the SSSI has produced a very special ecosystem. The soils are very thin and low in nutrients, so only specialised plants can survive here.

You can find wild herbs and flowers like Rock Rose, Bird’s Foot Trefoil, Wild Thyme, Scabious, Harebell and Blue Milkwort. Several rare wild orchids thrive here, including Bee, Pyramidal, Common and Green Winged.

The ‘upright Brome and Sheep Fescue’ turf provides food and shelter for many beetles, grasshoppers, butterflies, bugs, molluscs and spiders, some unique to this scarce, specialised habitat.

## HELP US LOOK AFTER THE COMMON

This fragile habitat and its wildlife are easily damaged by the picking of flowers, litter, dog fouling and erosion of its thin soils.

Please respect this special place and do all you can to help us to conserve it for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Cotswold Conservation Board  
Cotswold Way Association  
Stroud District Council  
Kings Stanley Parish Council



Small Blue



Duke of Burgundy



Hoverfly on Scabious



Bee Orchid



Thick Shinned Beetle/ Rock Rose



Wild Thyme

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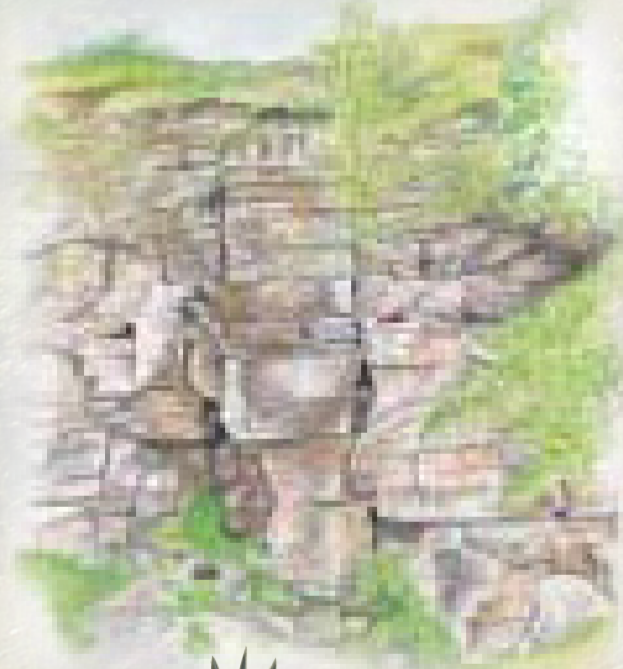
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