

Leeds Nature Area – Evaluation Against Local Wildlife Site Criteria

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| Site Name/ Code: Bramley Fall & Newlay Quarry, LNA 020 | Location: just north of Bramley and south of Horsforth |
| Date of Survey: 17/04/2013 | Surveyor: E. Skinner, West Yorkshire Ecology |
| Grid Reference: SE246363 | Site Area (Ha): 33.32 |
| Natural Area: Coal Measures | Public Access: yes, to much of site |
| NVC Communities: A111 (Phase 1), W10, W16, W8 | |

Site Description

The Bramley Fall & Newlay Quarry site is located in the Kirkstall area of Leeds. It covers a fairly wide area, with the Leeds & Liverpool Canal dissecting part of the site, and amenity grassland bordering much of the site. The site is almost entirely wooded, mostly with acidic woodland, and there is a disused quarry to the western end of the site, which has also wooded over but still bares some exposed cliff-face.

W10e, acidic woodland, covers the greatest overall area and it is host to species including: frequent *Quercus petraea* and occasional *Betula pendula*, *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Fagus sylvatica* and *Acer pseudoplatanus* in the canopy, with occasional *Ilex aquifolium* and *Crataegus monogyna* in the shrub layer and frequent *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, occasional *Rubus fruticosus*, *Geum urbanum*, *Anemone nemorosa*, *Holcus mollis* and *Pteridium aquilinum* in the ground flora.

There is an area of W16 covering the central part of the site, which contains: frequent *Betula pendula* and *Quercus petraea* in the canopy, with rare *Ilex aquifolium* in the shrub layer and occasional *Rubus fruticosus* and *Deschampsia flexuosa*, and rare *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Lonicera periclymenum*, *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* and *Dryopteris dilatata* in the ground flora.

There are a couple of stands of W10a, which are present over steeper ground, across part of the quarry and along the eastern arm of the site. The species present include: frequent *Quercus petraea* and *Betula pendula* in the canopy, with rare *Ilex aquifolium* in the shrub layer, and occasional *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, *Holcus mollis*, *Rubus fruticosus* and *Pteridium aquilinum* in the ground flora, as well as some dense moss cover.

The flatter ground within the quarry is covered by A111 semi-natural broad-leaved woodland. The species present are: frequent *Betula pubescens* and occasional *Quercus petraea*, with occasional *Salix* in the shrub layer, and frequent *Rubus fruticosus* and *Impatiens glandulifera*, and occasional *Urtica dioica*.

A couple of stands of A111, neutral woodland, are present on the southern margin of the site. The species composition includes: occasional *Fraxinus excelsior* and *Acer pseudoplatanus* in the canopy, with rare *Crataegus monogyna* in the shrub layer and frequent *Allium ursinum*, rare *Rubus fruticosus*, *Arum maculatum* and *Urtica dioica* in the ground flora.

The wooded area to the north of the canal is A111, damp woodland, with frequent *Salix* and occasional *Betula pendula* and *Acer pseudoplatanus* in the canopy, occasional *Sambucus nigra* in the shrub layer and occasional *Rubus fruticosus*, *Holcus mollis* and *Urtica dioica* in the ground flora.

Fauna recorded during the site visit were: great tit (singing male), dunnock (singing male), jay (feeding), robin (singing male), blackbird (feeding), wren (singing male), wood pigeon (pair), rook (contact calls), great-spotted woodpecker (drumming), buzzard (calling), magpie (calling), long-tailed tit, blue tit (contact calls) and treecreeper (feeding). A roe buck was seen on site.

Ecological Evaluation

The site meets Criteria Wd5 for its density of bluebell coverage.

A range of bird species were recorded during the site visit and a roe deer buck was sighted. The fairly large area of the site means that it may offer more opportunities for species to utilise the site.