

# Mill Hill Quarry

## Location & Access

**OS:** 122 • **GR:** TF 452 716 • 2.40ha (6.00 acres) • Freehold 1968

**Habitat type:** Grassland

The quarry lies on the north side of the Claxby-Willoughby road near the top of the hill to the east of Claxby village, and about 1 km (0.6 miles) from Hoplands Wood. Parking space is available at the entrance or on the roadside. The cliff face and scree should not be climbed, and care must be taken not to trample vegetation unnecessarily in summer. Beware also of exposed lime kilns.

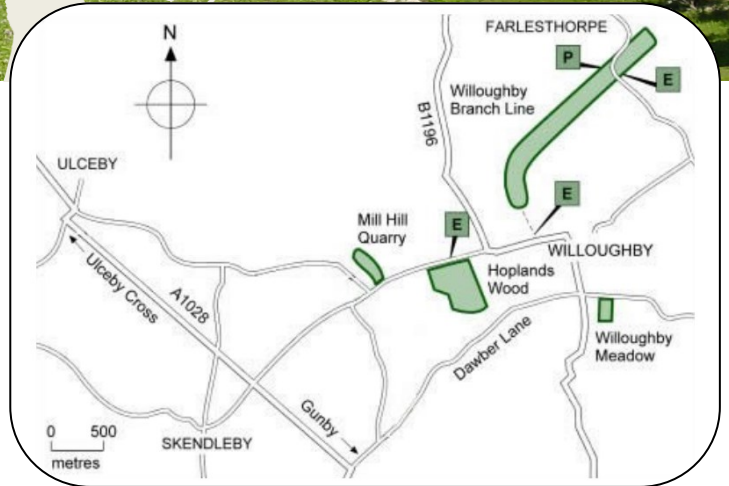
## Description & Management

Near to the eastern edge of the Wolds on a steep valley slope, the reserve consists of a disused chalk pit and a spinney. Already in use by the mid-18th century, the quarry produced stone for the marshland roads and, later, agricultural lime until work ceased in the late 1950s. Two old lime kilns survive, one of which is in particularly good condition. The cliff face at the north end shows the Middle and Lower Chalk with an intervening band of grey marl. The most abundant fossil is the bivalve mollusc *Inoceramus*, which has a strongly ribbed shell.

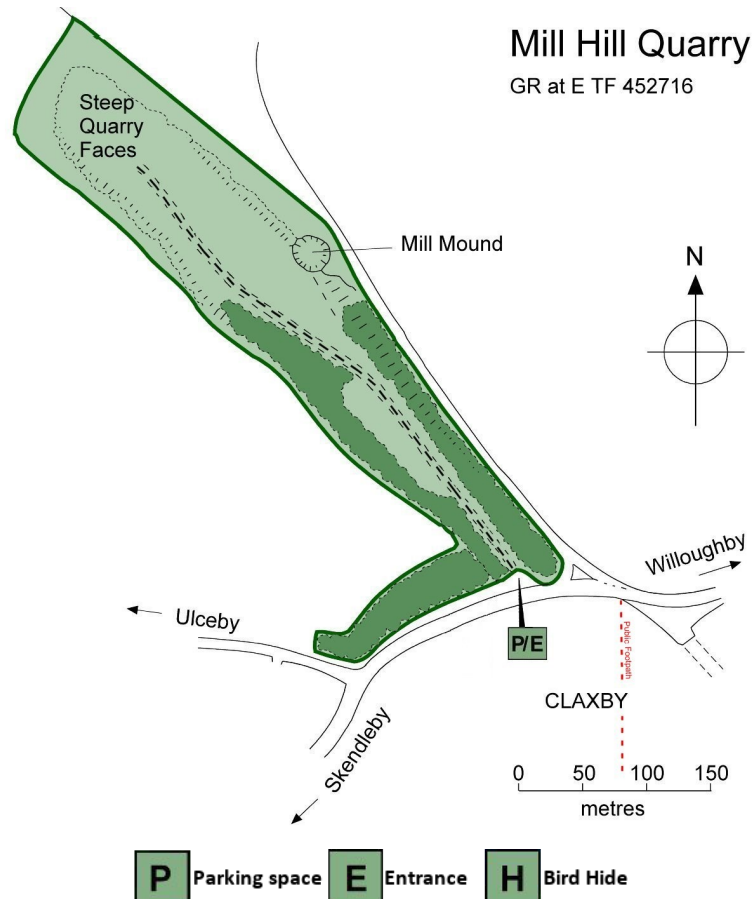
The quarry exhibits various stages of colonisation by chalk vegetation: the screes and sparsely covered ground below the cliff; well established turf with a colourful variety of wildflowers, including purging flax, salad burnet, giant bellflower, burnet-saxifrage, cowslip and an abundance of marjoram, and pyramidal and spotted-orchids; and scrub and woodland of ash and beech. Breeding birds include spotted flycatcher, pied wagtail, tawny owl, four species of warblers and five species of finches. Sun-loving butterflies, such as

wall, common blue and small copper, and many bumble-bees frequent the warm, south-facing slope.

Management is designed to maintain the various types of habitats by mowing and scrub control, and the woodland has been diversified by introducing more beech. The reserve is of use for educational purposes as it has much that is of historical interest: the mill mound, which is the site of a long vanished post-mill but originally a



Bronze Age round barrow; the lime kilns; and the remains of a blacksmith's shop near the entrance. A lane on the east side of the quarry leads to the mill mound, which commands a splendid view over the marshland.



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GR at E TF 452716