

Ashwell Quarry & Quarry Springs

A disused quarry which supports varied chalk grassland species

The quarry is very old and we know that in more recent times parts were cultivated and grazed. After quarrying finished about one hundred years ago, it slowly developed [scrub](#) and much of the open grazed grassland - rich in plants - was lost.

In summer the reserve is full of plants such as pyramidal orchid, field and small scabious, clustered bellflower and glaucous sedge. Deep shaded hollows add their own interest and many of the older thorn and elder bushes support rare mosses.

The adjacent Quarry Springs produce a stream of water at consistent temperature of about ten degrees centigrade, which is the very special requirement of some of the rare species of flatworm which thrive here.

Quarry is accessible by PERMIT ONLY. Available from the Warden, 56 Back Street, Ashwell, Baldock SG7 5PE (01462 742684). SAE appreciated!



The reserve is managed to enhance its natural diversity. Pockets of scrub of various ages show how vegetation of chalk changes over time. Sheltered [glades](#) in the scrub offer protection for many butterflies and other insects. Following removal of bushes many of the [chalk grassland](#) plants - including cowslips and pyramidal orchids - are coming back.

- [Get driving directions](#)
- [Find nearby public transport](#)

How to Get Here

Location

Between Ashwell and Hinxworth.

Directions

Half a mile west of Ashwell, on Hinxworth Road. Turn into Loves Lane. Car park near the junction of Loves Lane and Hinxworth Road.

Public Transport Links

Bus: Hinxworth Road (202), Ashwell village centre (91, 290). Rail: Ashwell and Morden (3 miles away).

Walking Links

Icknield Way; Look also at www.hertsdirect.org/cms

Map Reference

TL 253395

Visitor Guide

Size

3 hectares (7.4 acres).

Access to site

Entry to the quarry by permit only (from the volunteer wardens in Ashwell village - call Chris and Trevor James on 01462 742684).

Access around site

Some steep slopes. Main part of quarry is flat ground.

Walking time

1/2 to 1 hour

Advice on what to wear/bring

Recommend good walking shoes

Map of site (if available)