

The *Yellow Land* Project



Warwickshire
Wildlife Trust



BISHOPS ITCHINGTON
PARISH COUNCIL



heritage
lottery fund

LOTTERY FUNDED

Background...

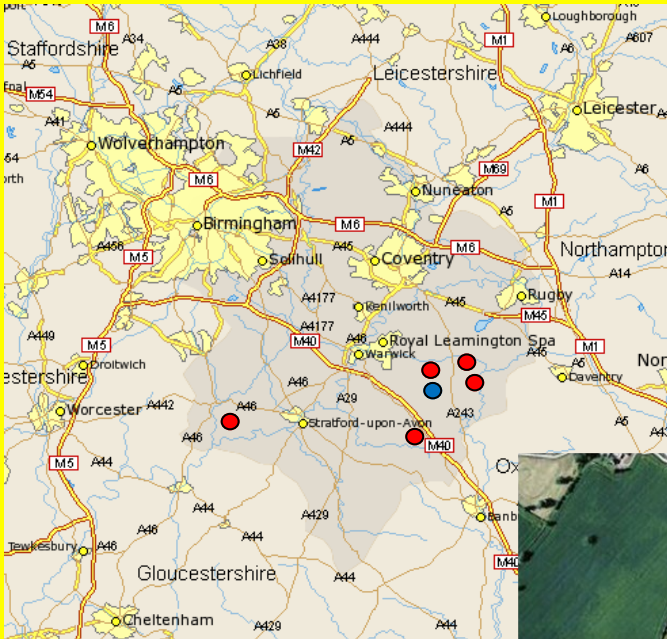
The Yellow Land is a one acre site on the northern edge of Bishop's Itchington village. It is part of a much larger area (Bishop's Hill/Bishop's Bowl) that was once a limestone quarry and associated cement works. Bishop's Hill and the Yellow Land were that part of the quarry used to dump lime waste from the nearby cement factory, creating the spoil heap in the process. Ownership of the Yellow Land passed from Blue Circle Group Plc to the Parish Council in 1984. The area has an insect fauna of regional and possibly national importance; in particular it is one of only a handful of sites in Warwickshire where you can still find the Small Blue Butterfly.

Because of the site's importance in terms of its history and wildlife, the Yellow Land Natural Heritage Project was set up in 2008. The aim of the project is to transform the site into a village nature reserve, where local people can connect with the rare wildlife on their doorstep. The Heritage Lottery Fund is providing funding for the project which is being run in partnership with Warwickshire Wildlife Trust.



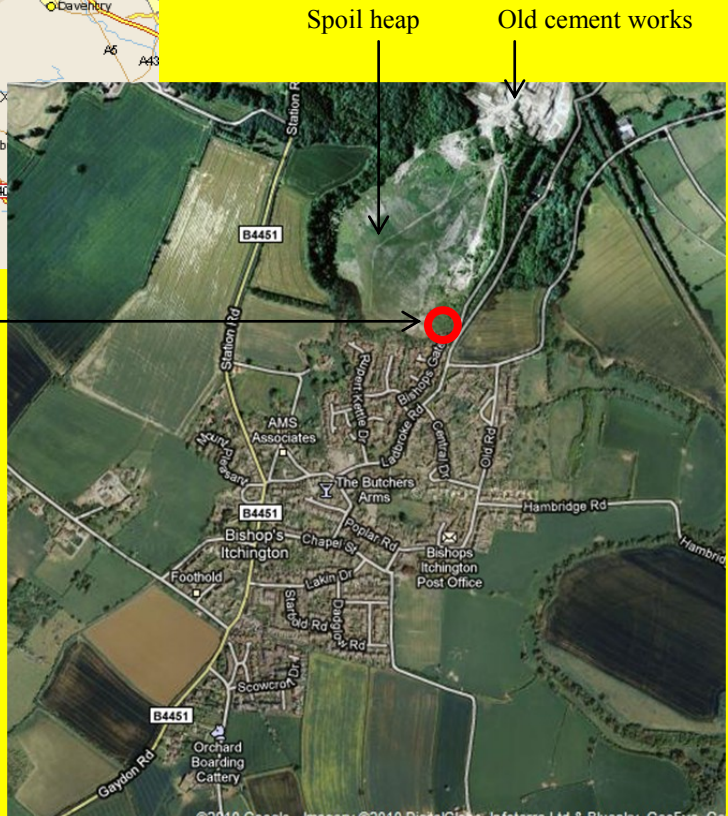
Work men from Bishop's Itchington in the quarry, early 1930's? (Photograph courtesy of Warwick Records Centre).

Location...



Bishop's Itchington and the Yellow Land (●) within the East Midlands region and Warwickshire (shaded area). Other significant calcicolous grassland sites are also highlighted (●).

In Bishop's Itchington



Directions:

1. From the B4451 (Station Road) turn into Fisher Road
2. Turn left onto Ladbroke Road just after the Butcher's Arms Pub
3. Follow the road past the primary school (with the school on your right hand side).
4. On the sharp right hand bend of Ladbroke Road, go straight on and walk down the private lane (Public Right of Way).
5. The Yellow Land is marked by a metal gate and Kissing Gate approximately 40 metres along the track on the left.

Wildlife...

The Yellow Land has an amazing variety of lime-loving plants and associated wildlife. [Kidney Vetch](#) (*Anthyllis vulneria*) is found in some areas of the site and is the sole food plant of the [Small Blue](#) Butterfly, whose larvae feed on the flower heads. The Small Blue Butterfly is Britain's smallest butterfly and is very rare. Other plants that you might find include Ox-eye Daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*) and the Common Spotted Orchid (*Dactylorhiza fuchsii*).



Ox-Eye Daisy



Quaking Grass



Song Thrush



Common Spotted Orchid



Willow Warbler



The yellow and orange flowers of Kidney Vetch



The Small Blue Butterfly



Mason wasps



Birds: Blue Tit; Great Tit; Coal Tit; Chaffinch; Robin; Dunnock; Long-Tailed Tit; Greenfinch; Goldfinch; Blackbird; Song Thrush; Great Spotted Woodpecker; Green Woodpecker; Chiff-Chaff; Willow Warbler; Field Fare (winter)

Butterflies and insects: 24 species of butterfly (including Grizzled Skipper, Dingy Skipper and Common Blue). Over 160 species of moth including the Small Elephant Hawk Moth.

Site work...

The project aims to transform the Yellow Land from an area overgrown with Hawthorn and Blackthorn scrub, into a place that is much more inviting for people and beneficial for wildlife. Present and future landscape improvements include:

1. Large areas of wildflower grassland with smaller patches of scrub
2. A limestone chipping path to allow easy access around the site
3. An improved entrance to allow access for all (with a gentle gradient)
4. Signage and interpretation (including a children's nature trail)
5. Seating
6. A dedicated school and pre-school area



The entrance in October 2009...



...and May 2010



View from the main path in November 2009...



...and in June 2010

Site-work has been carried out by a mixture of local volunteers, community service and contractors:



Community...

An essential part of the Yellow Land Project has been to involve members of the local community in improving and using the site. The village Biodiversity Group run by Pam Reason have been key supporters of the project as has Bishop's Itchington Primary School. An events programme given to everyone in the village has given residents the opportunity to experience the fantastic wildlife on their doorstep (see below).



Nature Photography



Bug Hunt!



Mums and Toddlers



Down Memory Lane event



Moth trapping

Tel: 01829 813294
 Email: yellowland@bishopsitchington-pc.gov.uk
www.bishopsitchington-pc.gov.uk

The Yellow Land Project

Events
Spring/summer

www.bishopsitchington-pc.gov.uk

May 2010 continued..

Saturday 15th May
Nature Photography
 Time: 10.30am-2pm meet @ the Primary School
 Join expert Richard Pearce and learn how to take better photographs of wildlife!

Saturday 15th May
Moths by moonlight
 Time: 9pm @ the Yellow Land
 Join local moth expert to discover the variety of moths that inhabit the Yellow Land

June 2010

Thursday 3rd June - HALF TERM
The World of Insects!
 Time: 10.30am-1.30pm @ the Yellow Land
 Come along for a bug hunt to learn about the insects of the Yellow Land. Mums and toddlers especially welcome.

Saturday 5th June
Bat detectors!
 Time: 8pm @ the Greaves Club
 9pm (approx) @ the Yellow Land
 Join members of the local bat group to learn about and then detect the bats of the Yellow Land

www.bishopsitchington-pc.gov.uk



Primary School Nature Club



Bird-watch



Cubs work-day





Mid-week volunteers

On the web...

www.bishopsitchington-pc.gov.uk

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Bishops Itchington

▶ Yellowland Natural Heritage Project

▼ Events

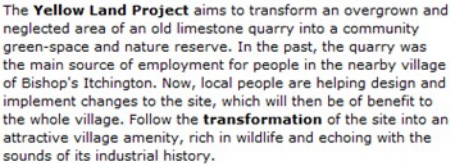

▼ Project aims

▼ Location

▼ Plants, rocks and insects



▼ News

▼ History




The **Yellow Land Project** aims to transform an overgrown and neglected area of an old limestone quarry into a community green-space and nature reserve. In the past, the quarry was the main source of employment for people in the nearby village of Bishop's Itchington. Now, local people are helping design and implement changes to the site, which will then be of benefit to the whole village. Follow the **transformation** of the site into an attractive village amenity, rich in wildlife and echoing with the sounds of its industrial history.

Photos of the yellowland project



See more in our [flickr album](#)

Downloads
 [Yellow Land Management Plan \(4019KB PDF\)](#)
[Help with PDFs](#)

External Links

- Warwickshire Wildlife Trust

We are not responsible for the content of external internet sites

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History

The Yellow Land is part of a much larger old limestone quarry and cement works complex, that provided employment in Bishop's Itchington until it closed in the 1990s. In order to celebrate the heritage of the site and its contribution to village life, senior residents in the village were invited to attend an oral history event in February 2010 - 'Down Memory Lane'. Photographs of the village and quarry since the 1930s were shown which resulted in plenty of anecdotes and memories being shared by the 30 or so attendees.

Following this event, 9 senior residents were then invited to the local primary school, where pupils in year 5/6 were able to interview them about the memories of the village and quarry. Through the process, pupils not only learnt about the local heritage, but also about interview technique and basic sound editing.

Edwards Buses

Alan Holder: Quarry Memories

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In the news...

www.leamingtoncourier.co.uk

Pupils help Yellow Land nature project

YOUNGSTERS from Bishops Itchington Primary school helped to improve a village nature reserve last week.

Members of the school's nature club brought bird boxes to the Yellow Land Natural Heritage Project off Ladbroke Road and cleared shrubs from the site.

The project, run by the village's parish council and helped by volunteers, started six months ago at the abandoned quarry and is being funded by a

£50,000 Heritage Lottery grant.

Its aim is to turn the area into a green space and nature reserve where villagers can appreciate the area's rare plants and insects.

As part of the project, pupils interviewed senior residents and recorded their memories of the quarry and its former cement works.

More conservation and interest events are planned for the forthcoming months.

www.bishopitchington-pc.gov.uk



Yellow Land project leader Chris Redstall with members of Bishops Itchington Primary School's nature club and teacher Jacky Sykes. MHL10-03-10 Nature Mar50

The Leamington Courier, March 2010



The Yellow Land Project

Eco-fame!

I am pleased to announce that the Yellow Land Project is to play a major part in a county-wide nature conference. Tuesday 22nd June will see environmental experts and enthusiasts from all over Warwickshire meet to discuss environmental issues – part of the day will involve a tour of the Yellow Land to see ecological improvement work in action!

Following some fairly drastic looking landscaping work that took place over the winter, the Yellow Land is now beginning to take shape. If you haven't been recently, a new footpath now makes it easier to have a short walk around the site and enjoy the range of wildlife that lives there. Look out for Common Spotted Orchids in an area cleared of scrub, and different species of butterflies such as Speckled Wood and the Small Blue. The rare Grizzled Skipper was spotted in late April!

COMMUNITY

On the 1st May, a small group of local people (pictured) enjoyed a morning bird safari with the county expert, John Bowley. Amongst common birds such as finches, starlings and blue tits, we heard Song Thrush, Willow Warbler and a rare migrant – the Wheatear. The photography course and 'moths by moonlight' event also took place in May.



Pupils from the Primary School Nature Club continue to play a major role in helping to improve the site and to record the animals and plants that live there. The Mums and Toddlers Group also spent a morning in May exploring the site – soon to be followed by youngsters from Busy Bees! Dog walkers - please continue

The 'Scene' village news, June 2010

The Observer Series, Thursday November 5, 2009



Mireille and Alex Van Leeuwen get to work clearing the site. 45.09.018.leam.nc

Wild about cash

A GRANT of nearly £50,000 has enabled work to begin on a new wildlife area in Bishop's Itchington.

The cash boost from the Heritage Lottery Fund saw the village's parish council launch its Yellow Land Natural Heritage Project on Saturday (October 31) - a scheme which over the next 18 months will see an acre of land in the village transformed into a wildlife zone for the local community.

The site is already noted for several nationally rare butterflies such as the Small Blue, and the parish council will work

with Warwickshire Wildlife Trust to extend its appeal further.

The programme of work will include scrub clearance and wildflower planting, as well as installing pathways and seating and putting up information boards detailing natural and local history.

A series of children's activities will also see pupils from Bishop's Itchington Primary School get involved.

For more information call project officer Chris Redstall on 01926 811394 or email yellow-land@btconnect.com.

The Leamington Observer, Nov 2009

History...

Another important part of the project has been to celebrate the history of the quarry. In February 2010, around 30 senior residents gathered together in the Greaves Club to look at old photographs of the village and quarry. During the event, many people were able to share their memories and stories. Following this, 9 senior residents were then interviewed by Year 5/6 pupils at Bishop's Itchington Primary School. The recorded interviews are now available on CD or online at www.bishopsitchington-pc.gov.uk

DOWN MEMORY LANE

CD 1

1. Alan Holder (44:45)
Working in the quarry (5:55)
2. Dave Bishop (10:18)
Gelignite (1:58)
3. Tom Edwards (10:35)
Edwards' buses (1:10)

CD 3

1. Jill Jayes (14:51)
Shops and food (2:16)
2. Oscar Jayes (13:24)
Bagging-shed (1:52)

CD 2

1. Fred (Swallow) Taylor (15:03)
Quarry & dinosaur (2:16)
2. Fred Mann (16:44)
The cement works and heaps (2:03)
3. Ivy Bishop & Dora Smith (23:00)
School (2:22)
Community (1:36)

About the 'CD's':

The old limestone quarry and cement works in Bishop's Itchington provided employment in the village from the 19th century until the 1970s, finally closing in the 1990's. To celebrate the heritage of the site and its contribution to village life, senior residents in the village were invited to attend an oral history event in February 2010 - 'Down Memory Lane'. Photographs of the village and quarry since the 1930's were shown, which resulted in many anecdotes and memories being shared by the 30 or so attendees. Following this event, nine senior residents were interviewed by Year 5 and 6 pupils from Bishop's Itchington Primary School about their memories of the village and quarry. The 'CD's' in this pack are a recording of those interviews and include a short extract(s) from each one.

Bishop's Itchington Parish Council would like to thank: Pupils and staff of Bishop's Itchington Primary School Year 5/6; Val Ray and Anne Murphy (Senior Residents' Association); The Greaves Club; Chris Bradley at the Community Arts Workshop (Leamington Spa); Warwickshire County Record Office; Interviewees: Dave Bishop, Ivy Bishop, Tom Edwards, Alan Holder, Fred Mann, Dora Smith, Fred (Swallow) Taylor, Jill Jayes and Oscar Jayes.

Produced as part of the **Yellow Land Natural Heritage Project**
www.bishopsitchington-pc.gov.uk/YellowLand.htm

DOWN MEMORY LANE

DOWN MEMORY LANE

An Oral History of Bishop's Itchington Village and Quarry



Alan Holder interviewed by
Year 5/6 pupils



The cement factory and
'heaps' being built up by the
aerial ropeway



Senior resident's event

**The Yellow Land Natural
Heritage Project**

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