

Quarry Moor

local nature reserve



Winter Update

With most of the other vegetation having died down now, it becomes apparent just how much tree growth there is on Quarry Moor. Although the grasslands are important, a large part of Quarry Moor is under tree cover. Historically woodland management was an integral part of the utilisation of the resources of the English countryside: timber for building and furniture, roads and withes for hurdles and basket making, and most importantly, fuel.

At Quarry Moor, this woodland management was undertaken for a specific purpose - to provide a supply of brash, or small branches, to be used in lime building. This kind of woodland management is called coppicing: the regular cutting down of trees to take a crop of rods of various thicknesses. Coppicing was very beneficial to wildlife, so it is still used today in the conservation management of the countryside.



Visitors to Quarry Moor will have noticed that a block of woodland in the North West corner has been coppiced. This always looks drastic when undertaken, but come next Spring, the coppice will, due to the sunlight being allowed to enter, become totally green with fresh growth.

A considerable number of blackbirds have turned up on the Moor recently. These are Continental birds, mostly young males, recognisable by their dusky brown plumage and dark beaks. Other birds to look out for are bullfinches, goldfinches, woodpeckers and our tame robin in the Car Park.

Some kind person recently left two bird nesting boxes in the Car Park. If they read this - thank you. The warden will be putting them up soon.

It's difficult to believe, but in the next few weeks we will be seeing the snowdrops again, and another growing season will start on Quarry Moor.