

## Our Aims

The aim of Cork Nature Network is to benefit the community of Ireland by promoting and encouraging the conservation of wildlife and habitats by educating and increasing the awareness of the need for conservation.

1. To promote nature conservation
2. To educate and increase awareness of the need for conservation

## Contact Us

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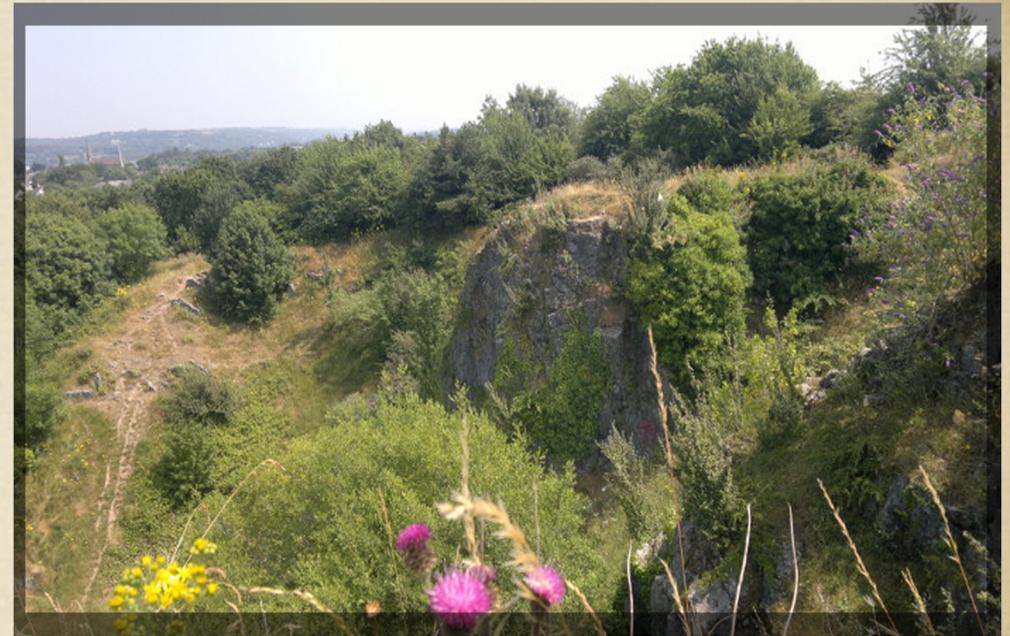
To help us continue researching and protecting wildlife in Cork, please consider becoming a member of Cork Nature Network.



This leaflet has been funded by Cork City Council  
Photos courtesy of Isobel Abbott and Emer Ni Caomhánaigh.

# BEAUMONT QUARRY

## AN OASIS IN CORK CITY



Registered Office: An Siblín, Ballinvoher, Castletownroche, County Cork  
Company N°560881 /RCN 20103200 CHY 21602



Cork City Council

*This former limestone is important for wildlife, a lovely place to walk and spend time in nature.*

## The History

The site was abandoned in the 1960s. It has provided a refuge for wildlife and has revegetated naturally since its closure. The quarry supports dry calcareous grassland, wet grassland, mixed semi-natural woodland, scrub and exposed rock and cave habitats. The quarry provided the stone to build Beaumont House (*which belonged to the Beamish family*), St Finbarr's Cathedral, the Courthouse, Cork Savings Bank and Berwick Fountain on Grand Parade.



## Plants and Animals

Beaumont Quarry is home to several scarce plant species, including Little-Robin (*Geranium purpureum*). This little pink flower grows within cracks in limestone rocks and walls. It is very rare in Ireland, with 9 of its 11 known sites in Cork City. Other nationally scarce plants present in the quarry include pale flax (*Linum bienne*) and common toadflax (*Linaria vulgaris*). This makes Beaumont Quarry of local importance for biodiversity.



The sides and part of the base of the quarry are covered with broadleaved woodland, primarily ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), sycamore (*Acer sp.*) and rusty willow (*Salix cinerea*). Oak (*Quercus robur*) saplings are found occasionally throughout.



The steep quarry walls provide warmth and shelter that attract insects. Ten species of butterfly have been recorded here, including common blues (*Polyommatus icarus*) and holly blues (*Celastrina argiolus*). Bumblebees and hoverflies are also abundant, feeding from the flowering plants. The site is a haven for many birds typically found in urban gardens, as well as summer migrants (e.g. swallows [*Hirundo rustica*]).

## Importance

- The site is important as a site with calcareous grassland which supports a range of associated species.
- The site is managed for recreation and wildlife
- It is a beautiful site unique to the city



## What we do ...

- Cork Nature Network run regular clean ups and events in the quarry.
- We hold an annual picnic in August to celebrate the quarry, where there are lots of activities including food, music, face painting etc.
- We manage the site with Cork City Council for nature and recreation.



**Please help us to protect the site  
Come along and help out at the clean ups.**

**Spread the word about the quarry and its  
importance.**

**Check out our facebook site.**

**Contact [beaumontcnn@gmail.com](mailto:beaumontcnn@gmail.com) if you can**