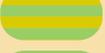
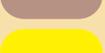
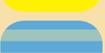


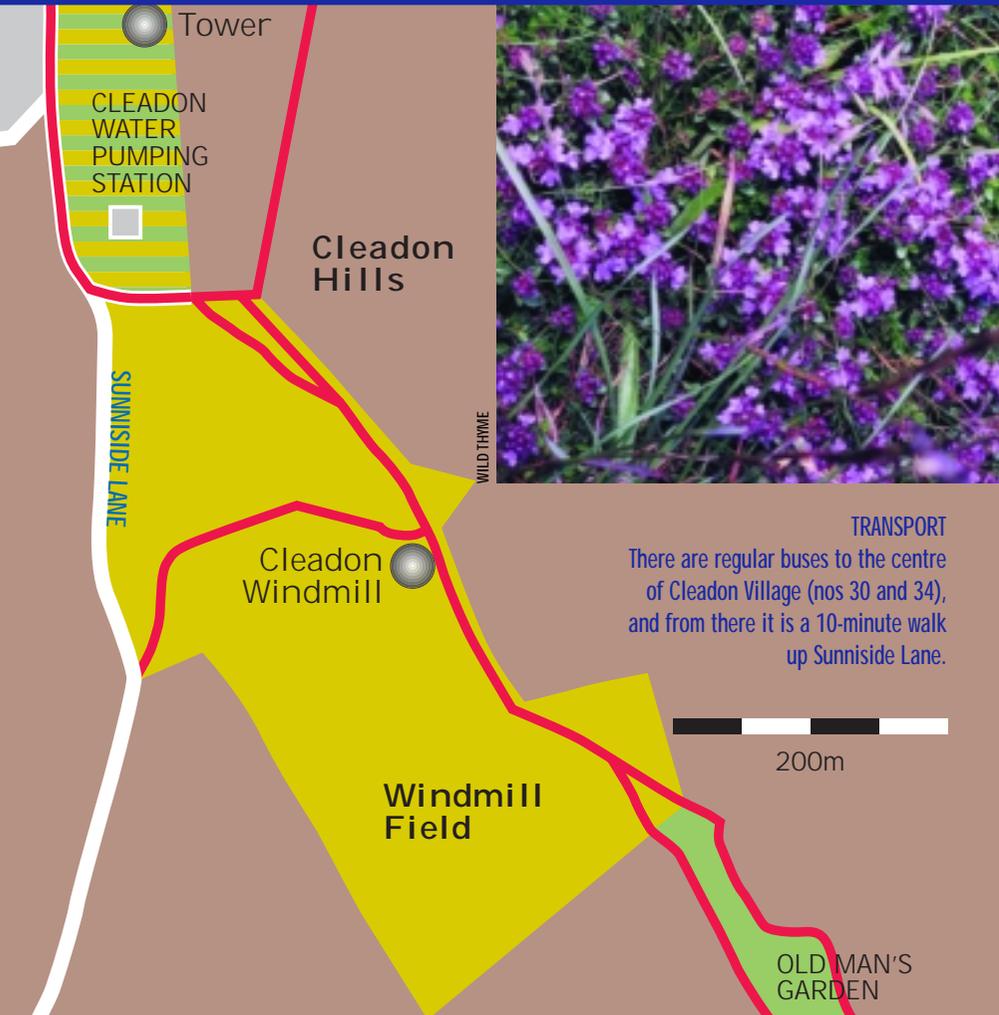
Sites of wildlife interest



Key to all site maps on following pages

-  Public paths/sculpture
-  Open space
-  Restricted open space
-  Woodland
-  Urban/industrial areas
-  Agricultural areas
-  Beach
-  Rocky shoreline

9 Cleadon Hills Local Nature Reserve (Windmill Field)



TRANSPORT
There are regular buses to the centre of Cleadon Village (nos 30 and 34), and from there it is a 10-minute walk up Sunnyside Lane.



The highest point in South Tyneside, Windmill Field offers panoramic views of the Borough, and the coast as far south as the North Yorkshire Moors. Its thin soils and underlying magnesian limestone geology are ideal for the range of beautiful and nationally-important wildflowers that grow here.

In springtime violets and cowslips appear, followed by the bright yellow flowers of rockrose and the purple-flowered wild thyme, which scents the air as you walk across it. Next come the sweetly fragrant ladies bedstraw and the delicately-stalked blue flowers of the harebell. These and many other flowers are encouraged by the management regime of taking a hay cut in the summer, followed by a further 'conservation cut' during the autumn.



The Windmill was built in the early 19th century and, along with the ornate buildings of the Cleadon Water Pumping Station to the north, is a listed building.

Windmill Field forms the western edge of Cleadon Hills, a gentle dome underlain by magnesian limestone rock. The gorse and thorn scrub hereabouts provides excellent year-round habitat for linnet and the showy yellowhammer with its 'little bit of bread and no cheese' song. Visitors include whitethroat and many unusual spring and summer migrant birds.

Look out in the fields for a rare glimpse of a hare, with its much longer ears and limbs compared to those of a rabbit. The limestone walls provide a home to the elusive common lizard.

ACCESS
The paths, of earth or rock, are uneven and all the access points are rather steep. The site forms part of the Marsden Circular Walk.

