

Colliery Spoil Spotter Sheet



The nutrient-poor soils of colliery spoil sites encourage a diverse range of flowering plants. Can you find any of these plants?



Bird's-foot-trefoil
(*Lotus spp.*)

May to September

A low-creeping, perennial plant with clusters of deep, yellow flowers tinged with orange/red.



Ling heather
(*Calluna vulgaris*)

July to September

A bushy, dwarf shrub with stems packed with tiny green leaves and pink/purple coloured flowers.



Carline thistle
(*Carlina vulgaris*)

July to September

A spiny biennial plant with distinctive brown and golden flower heads that look like a thistle that's gone to seed.



Southern-marsh orchid
(*Dactylorhiza praetermissa*)

May to July

A purple-pink orchid with leaves that are generally un-marked. Identification can be difficult due to hybridisation with Common spotted-orchid.



Yellow composites
(Asteraceae)

March to October

Dandelion-like perennials with dense, round yellow flower heads. Examples include Coltsfoot, Cat's-ear, Mouse-ear hawkweed, Hawk's-beards and Hawkbits.



Yellow / white umbellifers
(Apiaceae)

May to September

Characterised by their parasol - shaped umbels, made up of many tiny flowers held on short flower stalks. Examples include Cow parsley, Pignut, Wild carrot and Hogweed.

The project is being funded by Welsh Government's Enabling of Natural Resources and Well-being Grant through the 'A Resilient Greater Gwent' work programme. The programme runs until summer 2022 and is working towards a South East Wales where nature is in recovery and sustainable communities value their landscapes and wildlife and get involved for their own health and well-being.

If you wish to share your wildlife sightings, send your records to South East Wales Biodiversity Records Centre (SEWBReC).

