

Skinningrove

^(N) Harebells: before walking up the steps, turn right and walk along until the dunes end to see masses of harebells at their most charming, all with slightly differing blues and bell shapes. They are interspersed with delicate white burnet-saxifrage and the occasional punctuation mark of fuchsia-pink pyramidal orchid. July.

Much of the cliff face near the Jetty is made from waste slag from the steel works produced between the two world wars. In fact there was so much of it that they used it to infill a small valley (called Cattersty Wood on the 1895 OS map) next to the steel works and you can just see the remains of the valley tops in the nearby Wildlife Trust Nature Reserve.

^(N) Pyramidal orchids: they start appearing as you walk along the edge of the valley from the valley from the church and then almost round every corner from then on you will find more - I've never seen so many. Where the arrow points you can also find ^(N) common spotted-orchids and if you are lucky a ^(N) bee orchid. Early July is best.

The wildflower meadow at the flat area at the top of the cliff was sown in the 1990's when the land was reclaimed from part of the old steel works. You can find the distinctive purple flowered giant knapweed here as well as much of the smaller yellow lady's bedstraw. In contrast the wildflowers on the slag cliff face have all colonized naturally by species well adapted to the poor limy free-draining soil that lies on top of the slag.

The views here are stunning.



^(N) Native

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