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Nills Quarry

Countryside Site SSSI

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Once productive stone quarry that shut down following the reduction of road building during the Second World War, this site has undergone a remarkable transformation. Nature gradually reclaimed the area, which has now been landscaped to create a hidden wildlife sanctuary on the edge of Pontesbury. Today, Nills Quarry is a haven for local flora and fauna, featuring a series of small pools and ditches, lush broadleaf woodland, and a wild meadow that provides a rich habitat for many species.

In 2025, further enhancements were made to improve accessibility, using Shropshire Hills National Landscape 'Access for All' funding. New raised hard surface paths were put down and seating installed, making it an inviting place for visitors to enjoy nature.

The site is especially notable for its impressive biodiversity, boasting records for around 390 species of moths and butterflies alone, including the nationally scarce Pseudotelphusa scalella. A pond with a wooden platform shows off dragonflies, diving water beetles and newts. And in spring, a good number of Common spotted-orchids can be found.

Location:
Pontesbury Hill

Size:
20 acres

Parking:
Space for 3 cars. Road parking nearby

Accessibility: ☆☆☆☆☆

Likely to see:
Butterflies and moths, swimming beetles, dragonflies



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