

How to get there

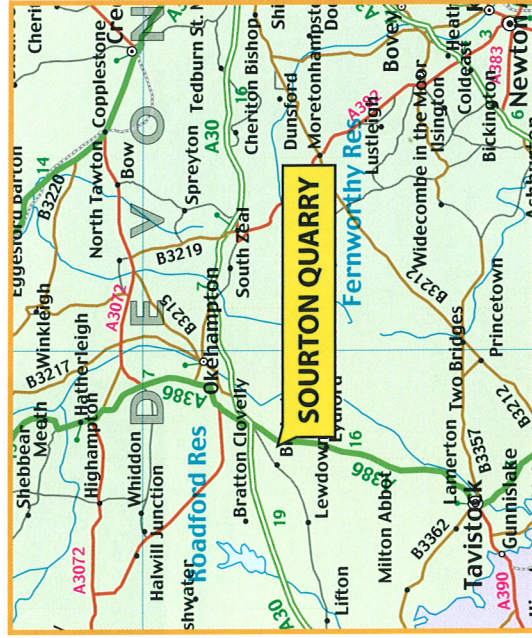
Sourton Quarry is on the northern edge of Dartmoor near Bridestowe, 9km south west of Okehampton. Entrance at grid reference SX 522 897.

By bus/train

For all bus, rail or National Express timetable information call 0870 608 2 608 (open 7am – 9pm daily except Christmas).

By car

From the A30 follow the A386 to Tavistock. At Lake take the minor road signposted to Bridestowe. Park in a lay-by ½ km along this road on the right. Follow the bridleway signposted from the lane for access to the site.



About the Devon Wildlife Trust

The Devon Wildlife Trust works to achieve a Devon richer in wildlife by:

- protecting wildlife
- campaigning for threatened wildlife
- giving expert wildlife advice
- increasing understanding of wildlife

The Devon Wildlife Trust cares for some 40 nature reserves around the county. Most are open to the public at all times.

Nature reserves aren't just left to nature! To be sure they stay in the best possible condition for all the plants and animals which live there, they are actively 'managed'. This also means that the public can visit them.

To report wildlife sightings, damage or circumstances needing attention, call DWT on 01392 279244.

This nature reserve is one of a national network of over 2,000 reserves cared for by The Wildlife Trusts.

Enjoying your visit

To get the most from your visit without harming the wildlife that lives there, please remember:

Respect wildlife

Don't pick flowers or disturb nesting birds! If you see anything particularly exciting during your visit, please tell DWT about it. We are always very keen to extend our knowledge of our nature reserves and welcome any records.

Be properly dressed

Wear sensible clothing and make sure you have the right footwear. Wellington boots or stout walking boots are strongly advised.

Gates

Please leave all gates as you find them.

Dogs

Dogs are welcome but we ask you to keep them on a short lead at all times.

Getting around

Please note:

For safety reasons the only public access is along the bridleway at the edge of the reserve. To visit the rest of the site please apply to DWT for a permit.

Watch out – the reserve is a very hazardous place with steep cliffs, crumbling buildings and a deep, water-filled quarry.

Take care

Visitors are reminded that all areas of the countryside contain inherent, natural hazards so we ask you to take suitable and sufficient precautions to avoid injury or harm.

Telephone, toilets and refreshments

The nearest telephone and refreshments are in Bridestowe, grid reference SX 514 895. The nearest public toilets are at the services at the A30/A386 junction.

The Devon Wildlife Trust - working for a Devon richer in wildlife

For more information about other DWT nature reserves, our work or how to become a member, contact

The Wildlife Trust Tel 01392 279244
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 onwildlifetrust.org
 ed charity, no 213224

Web site www.devonwildlifetrust.org
 Registered charity, number 213224.

Supported by the
Heritage Lottery Fund



Discover Sourton Quarry



Devon



www.devonwildlifetrust.org

Protecting Wildlife for the Future

Ghosts from the past shelter of the night!



Greater horseshoe bats roost here undisturbed
- J Kaczmarek



The once bustling quarry buildings are now derelict - D Bassey

Crumbling ruins of stables and lime kilns give a hint to the past industry that once thrived at Sourton Quarry. Limestone was extracted from the deep, now water-filled, pit. Abandoned in 1906 it is now a tranquil place where lesser horseshoe bats flourish within the old derelict buildings where people once lived and worked.

The air is thick with a brooding gothic atmosphere. Clouds of jackdaws caw loudly amongst the towering trees that clad the steep spoil piles of waste rock. The heaps' sun-baked summits are rich with orchids while mosses and ferns create a soft and furry carpet at their shadowy humid bases.

Stroll along the track and soak up the reserve's unique atmosphere.

1 The deep still water of the abandoned quarry is contained on all sides by vertical cliffs that loom around 70 feet above its surface.

2 A sunny glade is packed with dozens of southern marsh orchid flower spikes.

3 Steep curving arches of decaying lime kilns create the perfect spot for bats to hang out, hiding in cracks and crevices.

4 Rusty railings separate the steep sided canyon that gave access to the quarry from the now derelict Captain's House. It was once full of life and cosy fires. Now the chimney is occupied by nesting tawny owls.

5 To the Bat Cave!

This building has been restored to help lesser horseshoe bats to roost. It has a roof that warms quickly in the sun and thick walls to maintain a steady temperature.



The limestone quarry is now filled with water - D Bassey



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