

# CASTLEBERGH CRAG FAUNA

## What grows and lives around Castlebergh Crag

The flora and fauna around Castlebergh has changed markedly over the time that people have lived at the foot of it. There is evidence that the land below the Crag was once a site of undisturbed Ancient Woodland (naturally occurring woodland established before 1600). The woodland was cleared for grazing by sheep, and this later gave way to quarrying and lime burning. The Crag was even used as a giant sundial in the 18th century! Castlebergh as a tourist attraction continued in Victorian times when a Pleasure Park with swings and hobby horses was built. The grounds were then replanted with the shrubs, trees and flowers that were popular at the time. Many of those plants are still here today.

## Wildlife

As the character of the area has changed so has the species of animals, birds, insects and butterflies which roost and feed here. Larger animals like fox and deer are not resident at Castlebergh but use the woods as a wildlife corridor between the habitats that are less disturbed by humans.

Look out for vole trails, listen out for the drumming of lesser spotted woodpeckers.



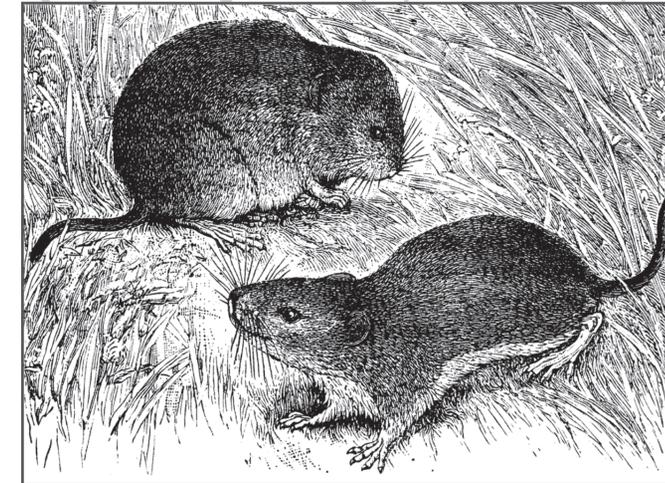
**Hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*)**

The hedgehog was once widespread across the Yorkshire Dales but in recent years its population has declined. Loss of suitable habitat is thought to be the reason for this. Hedgehogs spend much of their lives asleep.



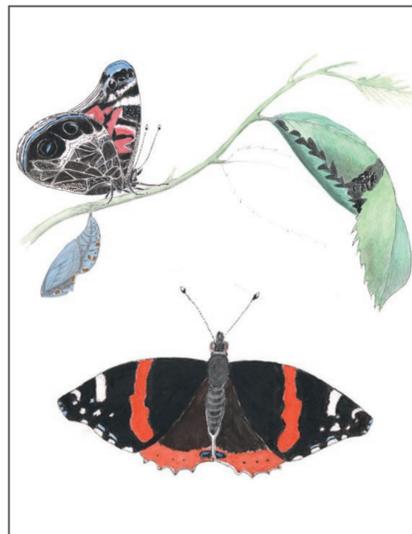
**Peacock (*Aglais io*)**

The striking colours of the peacock make it unmissable when it is feeding on buddleia and lilac. Yet, when it closes its wings the colouring and pattern of the undersides disguises it as a dead leaf or a piece of tree bark. If startled a resting peacock flashes its lurid eye patches to scare off intruders.



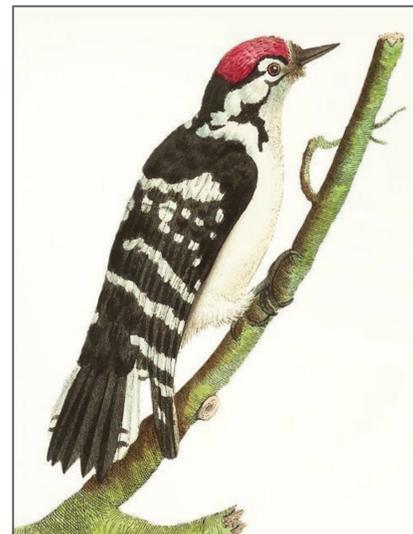
**Vole (*Microtus agrestis*)**

These small creatures (95-133 mm long) are our most numerous mammal but are not easy to see. If you look closely you may be able to find where they have made their tunnels and runways within the grass.



**Red Admiral (*Vanessa atalanta*)**

The red admiral caterpillar's primary host plant is the stinging nettle, the seeds of which are considered by some foragers to be a super-food for humans as well. Red admirals are territorial; females choose to mate with males that hold territory and have good flying skills.



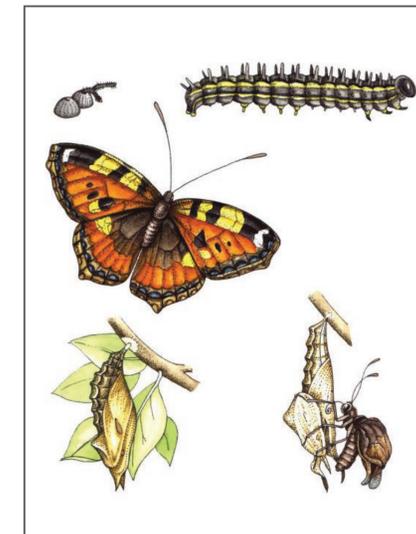
**Lesser Spotted Woodpecker (*Dryobates minor*)**

The lesser spotted woodpecker is not easy to spot because they are shy and live in the tops of trees. Like great spotted woodpeckers, lesser spotted woodpeckers drum on trees with their beaks to proclaim their territory and warn off rivals.



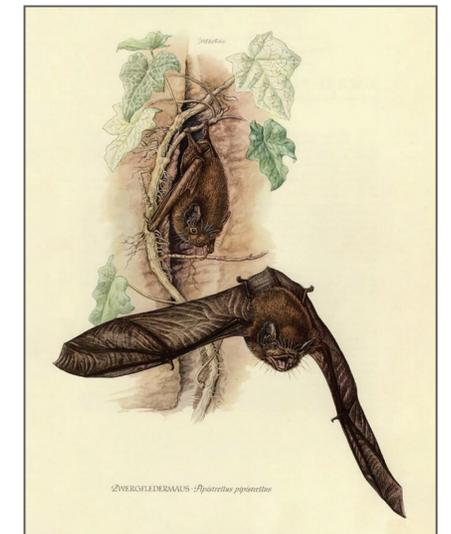
**Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*)**

The most characteristic hunting technique of a kestrel is to hover and then suddenly drop on to their prey. Kestrels have extremely sharp eyesight. They can spot small prey like voles and mice from a distance. They can see near-ultraviolet light too, detecting the urine trails left by rodents on the ground.



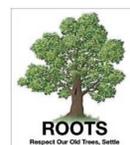
**Small Tortoiseshell (*Aglais urticae*)**

Tortoiseshell butterflies usually emerge from their pupa from mid-June into August. Adults overwinter in hibernation, emerging on the first warm sunny days of the year to mate and breed.



**Pipistrelle Bat (*Pipistrellus*)**

Eight species of bat are regularly recorded in the Yorkshire Dales. All bats in the UK are nocturnal and insectivorous. The pipistrelle bat, for example, reportedly catches over 3,000 insects each night as it forages along the edge of woodland.



Content for this panel has been kindly supplied to Settle Town Council by Roots

## Gateway to Ingleborough



Please stay safe on the paths - they may be slippery when wet.



Please keep dogs on leads.



Please use the litter bins provided.