

CASTLEBERGH CRAG FLORA

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.

Trees & Shrubs

Look out for the Whitebeams which were planted in the Pleasure Park. The wood has native trees too, such as Rowan, Wych Elm, Horse Chestnut, Holly and Yew. How many can you find?

Flowers

The flowers on Castlebergh are a mixture of those which thrive here naturally, those introduced purposefully, and those which have escaped from local gardens.

Fungi

The thin, acidic soil on the crag is not such a good place to find fungi, but you should see species like Judas's Ear or Turkey Tail on decaying wood.



Whitebeam (*Sorbus aria*)
Cut Leaf Whitebeam was introduced to the site when the Victorian Pleasure Gardens were planted.



Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*)
Rowans were once thought to give protection to travellers against malevolent beings. The flowers and vivid fruits are loved by wildlife.



Wych Elm (*Ulmus glabra*)
Wych Elm supports birds and the caterpillars of moths. The wood is very water resistant and has been used both for water pipes and coffins.



Norway Maple (*Acer platanoides*)
Norway Maple was introduced to the UK as an ornamental tree in the 17th century. The flowers support many species of moths and bees.



Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*)
This common Dales tree thrives in the harsher climate of limestone country. Its wood absorbs shocks without splintering making it ideal for handles, cartwheels, and the frames of Morgan cars.



Hedge Woundwort (*Stachys sylvatica*)
Woundwort is a good pollinator that attracts bees and supports the bronze shield bug. It was previously used medicinally to heal wounds - hence its name.



Periwinkle (*Vinca major*)
Originally found in southern Europe and northern Africa, periwinkle was introduced by Victorians when the Pleasure Gardens were planted.



Wild Garlic or Ransoms (*Allium ursinum*)
This plant is an indicator of the earlier presence of Ancient Woodland. It is a wild relative of the onion and widely used as salad, herb, boiled as a vegetable, or cooked into a sauce.



Wood Millet (*Milium effusum*)
This semi-evergreen grass thrives on the shady winter-wet, mildly acidic soil of Castlebergh. Wood Millet has the scientific name of 'effusum' because of its spreading habit. It is eaten by passing deer and resident voles.



Hart's-Tongue Fern (*Asplenium scolopendrium*)
This lime-loving plant is quite at home on Castlebergh Crag. Hart's-Tongue was used medicinally throughout the 1800s as an astringent and expectorant. It is so called because it looks like the tongue of a deer (a hart).



Male Fern (*Dryopteris filix-mas*)
This plant was originally thought to be the male version of the common lady fern (*Athyrium filix-femina*). The root was prescribed, until recent times, to expel tapeworms. Male Fern supports many species of insects, including the small elephant hawk moth.



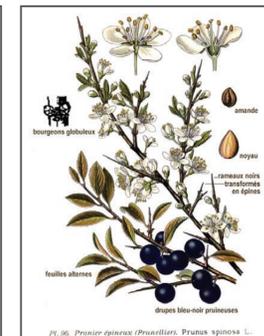
English Wallflower (*Erysimum*)
Wallflowers, as the name suggests, grow in the nooks and crannies of walls and cliffs. It was used medicinally as a diuretic and cardiogenic. In folklore it was linked to 'disappointment in love', hence the term 'being a wallflower'.



Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*)
Hawthorn is one of the few trees that can survive the extreme dryness and wetness of limestone pavement. No surprise, then, that it was adopted as the emblem of the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust.



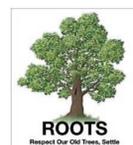
Ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*)
Ragwort is often considered a blight, not least because it can be injurious to cattle and horses, but its nectar attracts a great many pollinators. The leaves can be used as a green dye; the flowers as a yellow-brown dye.



Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*)
Blackthorn is a spikier relative of hawthorn. This is an early flowering native shrub, providing nectar for early flying insects such as bumble bees. In autumn its sloes are food for berry-eating birds.



Travellers' Joy (*Clematis vitalba*)
The flowers of travellers' joy are a food plant for moth species and pollinators like hover flies and bees. The long, silky hairs of the seed head are the reason for its alternative name of old man's beard.



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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.