Walk up Benson's Road and visit two other features on The Limestone Way

Visit **www.bqsp.co.uk**
...for more information and tour details

Whitemountain & District Community Association

Stop 7
This natural spring fed horse watering trough is thought to have existed here for nearly 200 years.

The water that feeds this trough comes from a spring formed at the junction between the Mudstone and Limestone.

Many people in this area still use natural spring water wells for their water supply and many springs like this one flow onwards to become streams and rivers that in turn feed reservoirs around Lisburn.

It is therefore important that the land in this area does not get contaminated.

Stop 9
This **limekiln** is thought to be one of 40 in the Belfast Hills area and probably 'burned' limestone excavated from the adjacent quarry.

The lime was used as an agricultural fertiliser, in medicines, as a disinfectant, to aid decomposition in cesspits, as a slug and snail repellent, as an ant killer, to mark out sports pitches and to protect stored potatoes from the frost.

Decades of limestone quarrying at Belshaw's Quarry (Grid Reference: J 229671) have uncovered secrets of what the land you stand on today in Ireland might of looked like about 250 million years ago, even before the dinosaurs roamed the earth!

In one compact location, through the eyes of sculptors you can slice through geological time to see 'snapshots' of features that stretch for thousands of miles.

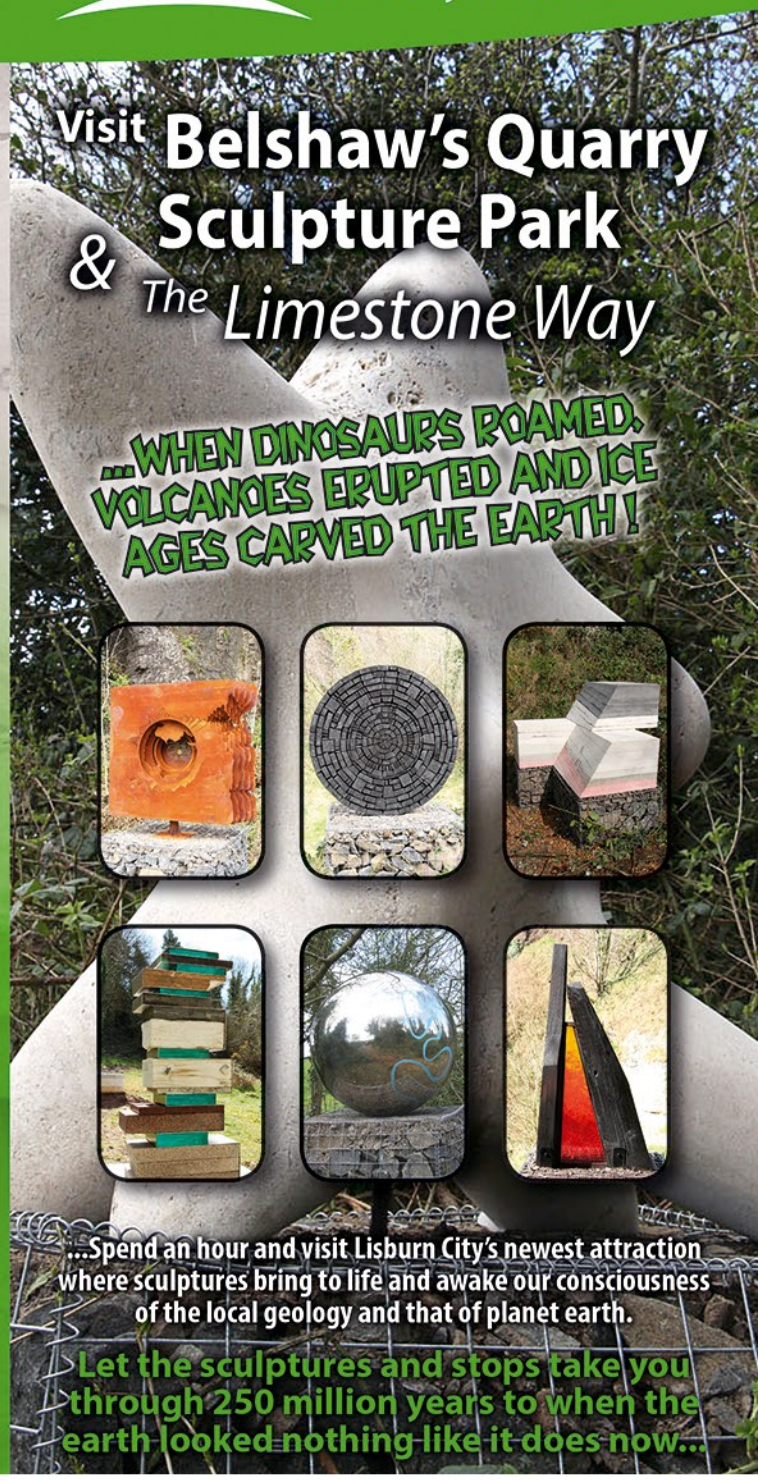
Visit this Area of Special Scientific Interest by two gentle paths that overlook the quarry and if you wish walk down the steps through millions of years of geology. At each stop off point find out in this leaflet about what you see in front of you. Information signs along the way tell you about each sculpture.

Take a walk along just half of mile of the adjacent road along the side of the Lagan Valley, to see more features and look out over the valley to the Mourne Mountains beyond.

Belshaw's Quarry Sculpture Park has been created by **Whitemountain & District Community Association** with the permission of the site owners **Northern Ireland Environment Agency.** Tel: **028 3885 3950**

Project funded by: Alpha A LAGAN COMPANY; GROUNDWORK CHANGING PLACES CHANGING LIVES

This leaflet funded by: LCCC Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council



Whitemountain & District Community Association

Belshaw's Quarry is like looking side on at a sliced cake... comprising a 150-250 million year old base, a 75-150 million year old filled centre, a 58 million year old top layer and a 2 million year old icing layer on top of it all.

Each sculpture relates to the key features of this reserve.

The quarry floor (base) is 150-250 million year old mudstone, formed in the Cretaceous Period when hot sandy deserts were successively flooded and dried out in the Triassic period.

The quarry face is the centre 'filling' formed between 75 & 150 million years ago and mainly comprises a very hard and 98% pure Calcium Carbonate limestone made from Coccolith 'Shells' and termed the Ulster White Limestone Formation. Look closely to see broken parts of trace fossils' of Belemnites which are the hard filled in head guard part of squid like creatures.
A thin clay layer lies on top caused by erosion over 65 million years ago. At the North Eastern end of the face there is evidence of an earthquake fault line.

The top of the 'CAKE' is made of basalt formed by molten lava that flowed over the surface about 58 million years ago.

The 'ICING' layers include clays (termed glacial till) from around 2 million years ago with soil on top of that, formed by grinding action of ice sheets on the basalt.

Signs of an earthquake and further underground activity creating two dykes can also be seen, one on the left side near the steps down to the quarry floor and one on the raised area on the right side.
Look closely also to see greenish grainy material called Glauconite formed of iron and potassium in the early shallow seas.

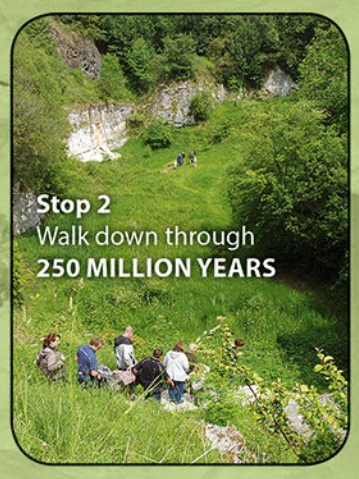
At the base of the steps (at Stop 2) there is a small pool which is fed by natural spring water. At certain times of year, you can see moving around in that pool the sand grain and leaf litter covered larvae of Dragonflies.
In summer these larvae transform into adult Dragonflies which you can see darting over the common spotted orchids on the quarry floor and bullrushes in the adjacent marshy ground.
Many species of butterflies can also be seen.
Report what you see at different times of the year.

Keep an eye out for but please do not disturb the native wildlife, insects and plants that have made this place their home

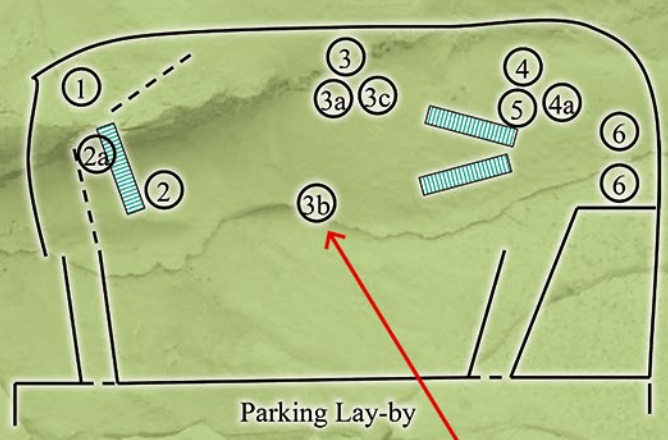

Stop 1
Volcanic Dyke (left side)


Stops 8 & 11
View the Lagan Valley, carved out by the last ice age, all the way to Belfast's historic Samson & Goliath Cranes where the Titanic was built.

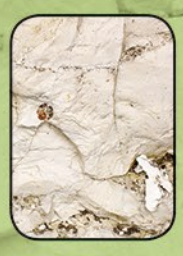

Stop 6
Dyke in left corner


Stop 2
Walk down through
250 MILLION YEARS


Stop 2a
Coalified layers between Basalt & Limestone. Formed when vegetation was 'cooked' by lava heat and reduced oxygen




Stop 3a
Flint beds


Stop 3c
Belemnite


Stop 4a
Fault-line side view

Stop 10 This Site of Local Nature Conservation Interest (SLNCI) abounds with wild flowers in late summer.


Stop 5
Mercia Mudstone & Glauconite traces under white limestone at volcanic uplift