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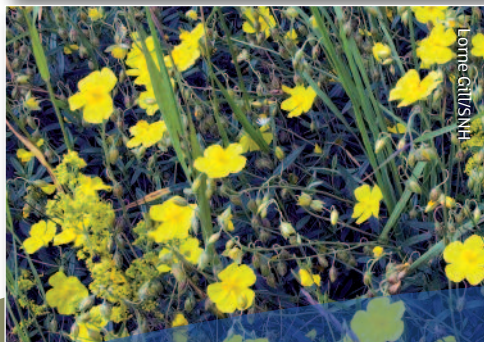
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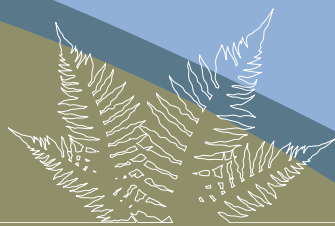
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Rocky outcrops

First Steps: get to know your wild flowers



Rocky outcrops

Rock outcrops can be found from sea level right up to the high mountains, and can be made of different types of rock. They provide a similar habitat to walls in that soil is almost non-existent, and the outcrop can be exposed to the elements. Plants that grow on rocky places tend to be hardy types.

Many rock ledges are out of the reach of grazing animals and can maintain a variety of plants that can't stand much grazing. They tend to be light-loving plants and don't grow well in shady areas like tall grass or woodland.

Flowering time: Plants of rocky outcrops are best seen in summer, from June to September.



Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*) – A creeping, hairless plant that appears to have trefoil leaves, but has another two small leaflets on the leaf stem. A cluster of four

or five hooded yellow flowers, occasionally tinged with red, makes the flowerhead.

Location: _____
Date: _____



Wild Thyme (*Thymus polytrichus*) – This is a small, low-growing, mat-forming shrub. Flower stems are squarish, with hairs on two opposite sides, and leaves are oval, in opposite pairs, producing an aromatic scent when crushed. Flowers are reddish-purple and usually form compact heads.

Location: _____
Date: _____



Rock-rose (*Helianthemum nummularium*) – A low-growing plant with dark green, oval leaves that are white and downy underneath. It has relatively large, round, yellow

flowers, with five petals.

Location: _____
Date: _____

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English Stonecrop (*Sedum anglicum*) – Forms a low-growing mat of small, thick, fleshy leaves, grey-green, turning reddish. Its small, white flowers are star-shaped,

with five petals, tinged pink underneath.

Location: _____
Date: _____



Mouse-eared Hawkweed (*Pilosella officinarum*) – A solitary, lemon-yellow, dandelion-like flower on a leafless stalk. It has a low-growing rosette of long,

rounded leaves, not toothed, green on top but with white felt underneath. There are long white hairs on leaves and stems.

Location: _____
Date: _____



Maidenhair Spleenwort (*Asplenium trichomanes*) – A distinctive small fern with thin, dark-brown or black stems. This evergreen plant has small oval leaves in pairs along the long

stems. Also found on walls in urban areas.

Location: _____
Date: _____

If you enjoyed this and are interested in learning more about our wild plants then join in with **Wildflowers Count** – contact us at the Plantlife Scotland office or through our website for more details.

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