

# MARLIN SUB-AQUA CLUB MIDLAND POOLS PROJECT DIVE PLAN



## 1 SITE

Site name	Hill Hole Quarry
Diver parking	Hill Lane, Markfield, LE67 9NP (see map for kit drop off location)
Non-diver parking	Hill Lane, Markfield, LE67 9NP
Facilities	None on site. Divers should bring own lunch, water, flask of tea/coffee, and arrive in their undersuits to avoid changing in public as a courtesy to other park users. Access to the water is via a set of stairs that are relatively steep.
Equipment	Divers' equipment should be clean and dry to avoid contaminating the site. Divers should bring sufficient cylinders for the day and a torch each. A slate or wetnotes, a camera, and net bag per dive team would be useful. Black rubbish sacks, litter-pickers, and marigold gloves.

Hill Hole Quarry opened in 1852. In 2001 Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council purchased the site and it is now a nature area within the National Forest. The site is a total of 5.2 hectares and this includes the water filled quarry, a small wooded area, allotment gardens and open grassland with exposed rock faces.

Hill Hole Quarry is a regionally important geological site (RIGs) for the exposed Markfieldite (granite). The meadow to the north was designated as a wildlife site and it was classed as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC). The exposed rock faces and heath grassland are priority habitats, the subject of Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs). The quarry pool contains a population of white-clawed crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*). It is also reported to contain roach (*Rutilus rutilus*) and perch (*Perca fluviatilis*).



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## 2 DIVING

Diving is by kind permission of Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council. Diving operations shall comply with Marlin Sub-Aqua Club "Surveying and Litter Removal Method Statement and Risk Assessment" (version 1.1), and BSAC Safe Diving.

The diving aims are:

- Underwater exploration and recording
- Environmental clean-up.

The objectives include:

- Recording water depth, temperature, visibility, lake bed composition and profile
- Recording aquatic life, including the presence of crayfish
- Determination of the presence of any heritage items from the old quarry works (e.g. block houses, roads, tracks etc)
- Determination of the extent of underwater geology
- Removal of litter.

Dive teams will select which of these objectives they will focus on and plan their dives accordingly. Litter must be surveyed prior to removal. All dive plans must be agreed by the Dive Manager.

## 3 SCHEDULE

Two waves of divers are required to ensure sufficient surface cover is available at all times.

- 08:00 Arrive on site
- 08:20 Safety dive
- 08:45 Dive briefing and planning
- 09:00–10:00 Group 1 / Dive 1
- 10:00–11:00 Group 2 / Dive 1
- 11:00–12:00 Survey collation and lunch
- 12:00–13:00 Group 1 / Dive 2
- 13:00–14:00 Group 2 / Dive 2
- 14:00–15:30 Clean-up and close-out