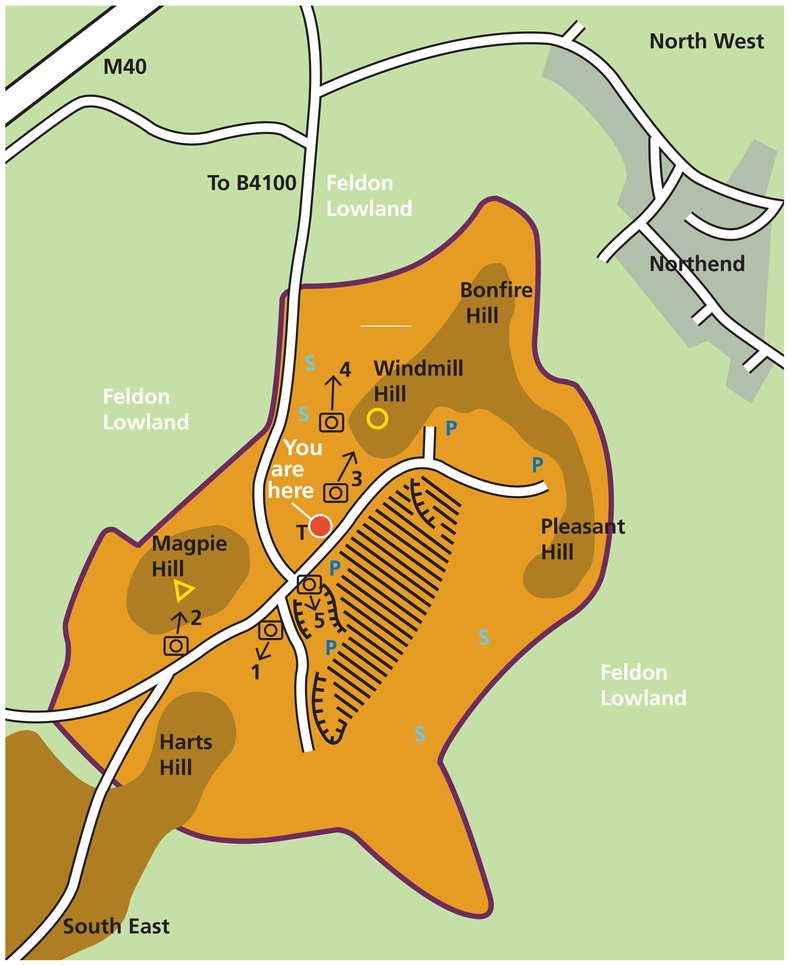
Warwickshire's Jurassic Park: How the rocks make the landscape

1 *Harts Hill*

2 *Magpie Hill*

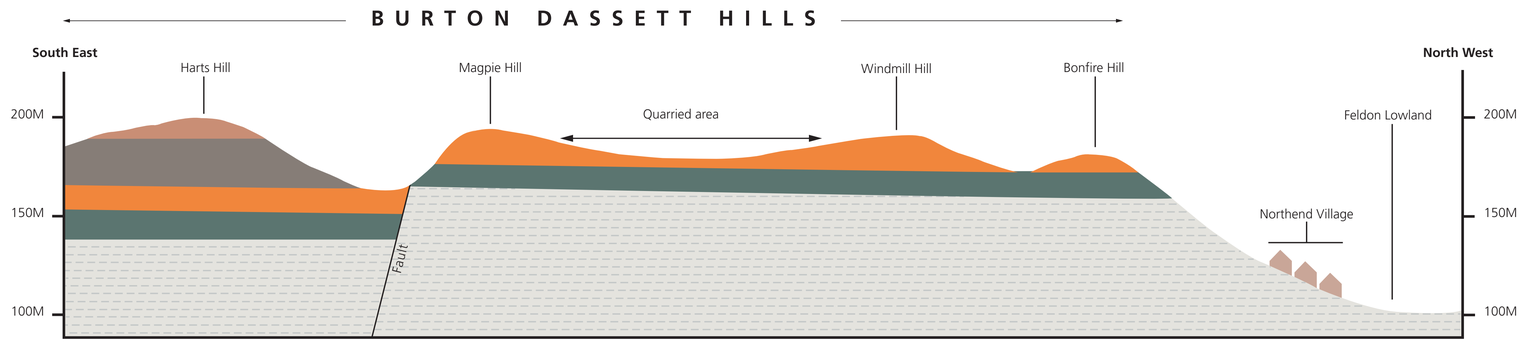
3 *Windmill Hill*

4 *Feldon Lowlands*



Key to map above

- Boundary of Burton Dassett Hills
- Roads
- P Parking
- T Toilets
- Tower
- View point
- S Springs
- Photograph view direction 1
- Main hills
- Other higher land
- Lowland
- Quarried area
- Northend Village



All these rocks were laid down in shallow, sub-tropical Jurassic seas between 195 -180 million years ago

Northampton Sands
These are the youngest Jurassic rocks, dating from about 180 million years ago. They are cemented sands deposited in shallow water and form the top and steepest slope of Harts Hill, which is the highest point in the Burton Dassett Hills.

Whitby Mudstone
These fine grained mudstones were deposited in quieter and probably deeper seas. They form the lower, gentler slopes of Harts Hill where it rises above one of the ironstone quarries.

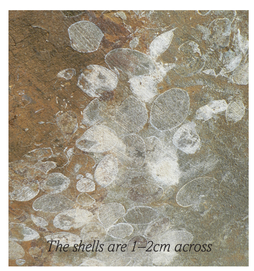
Marlstone Rock
also called
Hornton Stone
An orange/brown, sandy limestone with many fossils which is much harder than the mudstones. It does not erode easily and forms the top of most of the Burton Dassett Hills stopping them wearing away. It was laid down in quite shallow water. There is iron in its cement which gives it a rusty colour. On and off between 1868 and the 1920s this 'ironstone' was quarried for smelting to extract its iron.

Dyrham Formation
A silty, lime-rich and pebbly mudstone with many fossils which forms the lower slopes of the Hills. There is a line of springs where these rocks contact the Mudstone below.

Charmouth Mudstone
A lime-rich, soft rock which wears away easily and forms the Feldon Lowland surrounding the Hills. They are the oldest rocks, dating from about 195 million years ago, and lie below all the other rocks of the Hills.

5 *Ironstone quarry*

There were no dinosaurs in this Jurassic Park as all the rocks were laid down in the sea. You may be lucky to find some fossil remains of the shells of sea creatures in the quarries, but if not, look for some white fossil fragments in the tower on Windmill Hill.



The shells are 1–2cm across

This photograph shows fossil *brachiopods* in the Marlstone Rock used on the walls of Shire Hall in Warwick.

Warwickshire County Council

WGCG Hidden wonders in the landscape of Warwickshire

This landscape has been interpreted by the Warwickshire Geological Conservation Group (WGCG). WGCG runs a programme of talks, field trips and conservation work. If you would like to join or obtain more information, visit **wgcg.co.uk**