

Colliery Spoil Spotter Sheet



Colliery spoil sites support a diversity of lichens, mosses and fungi, including some of Wales' rarest species. Can you find any of these distinctive species?



Cladonia Lichens
(*Cladonia spp.*)

January to December

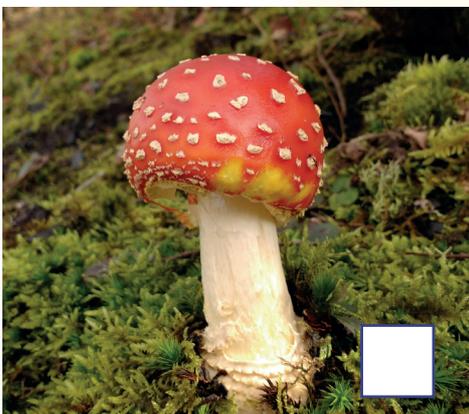
A large genus of lichens that includes species more commonly referred to as 'cup lichens' as well as more bushier species referred to as 'reindeer moss'. The podetia (stalks) of some species are unbranched and taper to a point, while others are often tipped with red or brown (e.g. Devil's matchstick). *Cladonia* lichens are often encountered on the ground amongst heathers.



Bog / Peat mosses
(*Sphagnum spp.*)

January to December

These 'bog-mosses' grow closely together, forming spongy 'living carpets' in wet places. They range in colour from red and pink, to orange and green.



Fly agaric fungus
(*Amanita muscaria*)

August to November

A classic fairy tale toadstool, it has a red cap with white wart-like spots and white gills. It is often found beneath birch trees in autumn.



Blackening waxcap fungus
(*Hygrocybe conica*)

July to November

A variable grassland fungus with moist, sharply conical caps that soon turn black all over, usually from the centre of the cap. They can remain standing for many weeks.



Cobalt crust fungus
(*Terana caerulea*)

January to December

A thin crust fungus that is instantly recognisable owing to its bright cobalt-blue colour. It can be found on various trees and shrubs including willows and gorse.

The project is being funded by Welsh Government's Enabling of Natural Resources and Well-being Grant through the 'A Resilient Greater Gwent' work programme. The programme runs until summer 2022 and is working towards a South East Wales where nature is in recovery and sustainable communities value their landscapes and wildlife and get involved for their own health and well-being.

If you wish to share your wildlife sightings, send your records to South East Wales Biodiversity Records Centre (SEWBReC).

