



# BURREN GEOLOGY



TERRACES



RUNNELS



LIMESTONE PAVEMENT



KAMENITZA



GRIKES



GLACIAL ERRATIC



FOSSIL



DRUMLIN



DOLINE



CHERT



CAVES



TURLOUGH

- ✦ **Terraces.** Layers of limestone separated by thinner layers of another rock e.g. mudstone.
- ✦ **Runnels.** Channels formed where water dissolves the limestone on its way underground.
- ✦ **Limestone Pavement.** A rare habitat made up of blocks of water-worn rock called 'clints'.
- ✦ **Kamenitza.** Small hollows created where water slowly dissolves the limestone.
- ✦ **Grikes.** Cracks or fissures formed where acid water eats away at hairline cracks in the rock.
- ✦ **Glacial Erratic.** Rounded boulders dropped by glaciers when the ice age ended.
- ✦ **Fossil.** The remains of plants and animals which lived in the sea 340 million years ago.
- ✦ **Drumlin.** Low hills made up of material (rock, till) dumped by glaciers when they melted. Very fertile.
- ✦ **Doline.** A large circular hollow in the ground formed by water eating away at the rock.
- ✦ **Chert.** This rough type of stone is made up of silica which comes from the remains of plankton.
- ✦ **Caves.** Underground passages created as the acid water slowly burns its way through the rock.
- ✦ **Turlough.** A temporary lake which fills and empties through 'swallow holes' at its base.





## BURREN FLORA



BIRD'S-FOOT TREFOIL



BLOODY CRANESBILL



BURNET ROSE



CAT'S PAW



EARLY PURPLE ORCHID



FLY ORCHID



MILKWORT



MOUNTAIN AVENS



PRIMROSE



SPRING GENTIAN



TORMENTIL



WILD THYME

- ✦ **Bird's-foot trefoil.** The seed pods of this plant look like a bird's foot and it has three leaves.
- ✦ **Bloody Cranesbill.** The seed pod of this flower looks like a bird's beak or bill and has a red tip.
- ✦ **Burnet rose.** This Burren rose grows on limestone pavement and has spiny stems.
- ✦ **Cat's paw.** Looks and feels like a cat's paw. Male flowers are white, females pink.
- ✦ **Early purple orchid.** The first of over 23 different orchids to flower in the Burren every year.
- ✦ **Fly orchid.** Very special plant, the flowers of which look like tiny flies to attract pollinators.
- ✦ **Milkwort.** Tiny blue, pink or white flower. Thought to increase milk yield in nursing mothers.
- ✦ **Mountain avens.** An Arctic plant which forms carpets of flowers in the Burren.
- ✦ **Primrose.** 'Prima rosa' or 'first rose' is one of the first flowers of the year.
- ✦ **Spring gentian.** Beautiful Alpine plant with blue petals and a white throat. A Burren icon.
- ✦ **Tormentil.** Small yellow flower, very common, roots once used as a food and a dye.
- ✦ **Wild thyme.** Fragrant plant with tiny flowers, can be used to flavour food.





# BURREN FAUNA



**BURREN GREEN MOTH**



**SLOW WORM**



**PEACOCK BUTTERFLY**



**PINE MARTEN**



**CUCKOO**



**BADGER**



**GOLDCREST**



**HARE**



**RED SQUIRREL**



**OTTER**



**FERAL GOAT**



**COMMON LIZARD**

- **Burren Green Moth** got its name as the only place it's found in Britain and Ireland is the Burren.
- **Slow worms** are actually a non-native, harmless, legless lizard.
- **Peacock Butterflies** have markings like eyes on its wings which can deter bird predators.
- **Pine Martens** are one of Ireland's only 26 native land mammal species.
- **Cuckoos** spend the winter in central and southern Africa and return to Ireland for the summer months.
- **Badgers** are nocturnal and are very sociable, living in small groups in burrow systems known as setts.
- **Goldcrests** are Ireland's smallest breeding bird species, measuring just 9cm in length.
- **Hares** in Ireland do not dig dens but make 'forms' on the surface. Their young are called leverets.
- **Red Squirrels** are a native species that have been present in Ireland since before the last ice age.
- **Otters** are fun, water loving and fish-eating creatures and they are highly intelligent.
- **Feral Goats** are not wild in the true sense, they are descended from farmed goats but are now wild.
- **Common Lizards**, if caught by the tail they have the ability to shed the lower portion and escape.