

Why are many of the turbaries wet and boggy?

With the exception of Horner Hill, the Stockland turbaries are located on valley slopes of the Blackdown Hills. The geology of this area includes a layer of permeable Greensand resting upon beds of impermeable strata comprising Keuper Marl and Lower Lias (basically types of stratified clay). The Blackdown Hills thus act as an aquifer, and a spring-line of varying width has formed between the clay and the Greensand. Spring-line mires can be found throughout the Blackdown Hills in general, forming a 'plimsole line' on the slopes of the hills. This spring-line is common to most of the turbaries and is why they are so wet and boggy. This unique habitat is the reason the turbaries hold such interesting and important flora and fauna.