

Clatteringwell Quarry



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To visit Clatteringwell Quarry (3) start from Portmoak Parish Church (1) and take the sign posted route up the Bishop Hill. An alternative approach can be taken from the car park at Holl Reservoir (2), following a track that leads past the farm of West Feal.

Clatteringwell Quarry is an excellent example of a limestone quarry which was worked from medieval times until the late 19th century. Lime kilns were used to heat limestone in order to create a substance known as quick lime. This was then utilised in the production of mortar for building, in agriculture to reduce the acidity of the soil and as a flux in iron furnaces.

The limestone was deposited during the Carboniferous period, 354-299 million years ago, when a tropical sea flooded low lying areas. The rich diversity of marine life in the form of corals, lamp shells (brachiopods), sea lilies (crinoids) and occasional sponges has been preserved as fossils in the limestone at the Clatteringwell. Fossils can be difficult to see in the quarry faces, but can be found in loose blocks in the spoil heaps nearby.

The limestone sits on top of a layer of dark-coloured rock known as dolerite which appeared some 307 million years ago when molten rock was intruded between layers of sedimentary rock to form a sill. This intrusion of hot molten rock resulted in the limestone being baked and hardened.

Beware of the dangers of approaching the quarry faces. Please do not remove anything from the site.



Terrain: Long, steep, arduous slopes with paths that can often be muddy. There are self-closing and kissing gates on the way. Care should be taken on the descent back to the car park and when crossing the main road.



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Distance:

2 miles, 3km

Time: 1.5 hours

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Scottish Outdoor Access Code

While out enjoying the local countryside please follow the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

For further information visit www.livinglomonds.org.uk