



Journey through the Valley of Stone

... a living history



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Visit Us

This section is intended to allow Rossendale's residents and visitors easy access to the projects and improved sites of the Valley of Stone project. We're hoping you will be as fascinated as we are by the rich history and legacy of the stone working industry that dominated the area.

Please be aware that sites are in the countryside and therefore it is recommended that you wear appropriate footwear and clothing. All sites are on land either owned by Lancashire County Council or Rossendale Borough Council.

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Lee Quarry

The early 20th century witnessed a major decline in quarrying due to rising extraction costs and a decrease in the demand for stone. In consequence after 1919 the majority of Rossendale Quarries were closed although the spectacular quarry faces at Lee Quarry in Bacup were worked until the mid 1980s,

Lee Quarry is now a main access point for Valley of Stone and is a major area for recreation. As well as providing mountain bike trails it offers an opportunity to understand the natural and industrial heritage of Rossendale. Parts of the site are classed as a Geological Site of Scientific Interest.

Valley of Stone work at the quarry includes a major restoration of the Saw Shed, the installation of 3 sculpture pieces by Mid Pennine Arts and interpretation of key sites within the quarry.

There is now 'Tramper' access to this quarry, provided by Lancashire County Council who own Lee Quarry.

You can find out more about [Lee Quarry as a historical site here](#).

Click and drag left or right to see a 360 panorama of the oldest section of Lee Quarry.

Lee Quarry Sawshed

The saw shed was conserved in 2010 by local stone masons Evans & Walmsley. A 2 bay building to house 2 **saw frames** which sawed the stone into useable size blocks. During the excavations, many artefacts were found. These are now displayed within the saw shed and an interpretation panel allows for easy identification.

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Thurns Head



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Valley of Stone has made several improvements to Thurns Head Quarry, including restoration on quarry huts, interpretation boards and a heritage trail.

It is accessible from Cwm Reservoir via the newly cleared Cow Clough Rake.

Thurns Head is an excellent example of a moderate size sandstone quarry of upper Haslingden Flag. Clearly visible are remains of working faces, workmen's shelters, working platforms, multi-fingered spoil heaps and tramways through the quarry. The life-span of the tramway was short; developed around the 1880s and abandoned soon after 1903.

[Click here to download a route map of the heritage trail.](#)



Heritage Trail at Thurns Head Quarry



Interpretation exploring life at Thurns Head Quarry

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Facit Chimney



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Facit Chimney sits half way along Facit Incline and is accessible from the newly created cycle route NCR 92 from Britannia to Whitworth.

Work to conserve the chimney was completed in 2009 and included the complete re-pointing of the chimney and re-straightening the top of the chimney as it had twisted over time. The chimney was restored by Groundwork Contract Services.

Facit incline was a steep single rail track with a passing place near the middle that transported stone in rail waggons from Facit Quarries on the moor top to the processing site located at the valley bottom. The processing site was situated below the chimney and next to the main railway line that led to Rochdale and beyond.

The chimney was built in the latter part of the 19th Century and was part of a flue system from the engine sheds that provided the power for the machinery that **polished, cut** and **planed** stone products.

Town Trail

Coming soon...

Valley of Stone are working with the owners of local buildings in Rossendale to leave a trail of blue plaques throughout the Valley to mark some of the best examples of local stone buildings. Mills, banks, churches, clubs, chapels and cottages will be marked in this way.

Visitors will be able to download a gazetteer from here which maps and provides information about the building and important points to note.

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Guided Walks

Valley of Stone runs a Guided Walk Programme. Each walk is circular, led by a guide and is free.

The walks are of different types and vary from easy to hard. Most of the walks start where car parking is available nearby and at a place accessible by public transport. They are walks in open countryside, sometimes in quarries and strong shoes or walking boots are recommended - as is bringing waterproof clothing.

The walks are supported by a network of volunteer guides who are first aid and have had training in leading walks. 11 volunteers are trained in Outdoor First Aid - an accredited course which covers all aspects of First Aid in the countryside.

We are currently planning this year's walk programme which will be available from March 2011. **Click here to download** our 2010 walk leaflet.

Contact **Arthur Baldwin** if you would like more information on our walks and becoming a volunteer guide.



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