

SITE

Name: Bickleigh Vale Quarries

Parish/Area: Mainstone/Estover

Local Authority: Plymouth

National Grid Ref: SX 522 596

OS Sheets: 1:50k 201 1:10k SX55NW, **GS Sheet 1:50k** 349

Locality Description: Bickleigh Vale, west side of the Plym Valley north of Plymbridge.

Nature and Status of Site: Small disused quarries and cuttings along the side of a trackway in woodland. A County Geological Site (www.devonrigs.org.uk).

Summary of Geological / Geomorphological Interest: The various quarries and trackside cuttings provide exposures of slate with structural features related to slate formation. Two quarries expose a dyke, intruded into the slate. Its vertical and lateral extent can be seen. The dyke resembles a fine grained granite and extends into Cann Quarries on the east side of the Plym as a mappable feature. Cann Quarry on the opposite side of the River Plym appears as a separate site within this Register.

Site Sensitivity: Excessive hammering of the exposures along the track south of the quarries could produce objectionable scarring.

Safety Considerations: The area is generally safe, although care must be taken on approaching rock exposures/old quarry faces.

Educational Age Groups: Primary, Secondary, College/6th Form, University.

Parking and Access: Car parks at Plymbridge to the south. Access to site via various paths and tracks, including the [Plym Valley Trail](#), on foot or bike, through National Trust owned woodland. Can be linked with visit to Cann Quarry (see separate entry in Register) on opposite side of River Plym. Buses run regularly from Plymouth to Plympton and the site is within walking distance from the nearest bus stop. If coming from further a field Plymouth is also on a main train line, for timetable details, visit www.traveline.org.uk.

Site Owner: The National Trust Warden (Plym Valley), Miners Cottage, Plymbridge Road, Plympton, Plymouth, PL7 4SR. Telephone; 01752 341377.

References:

TAYLOR, R. T. and GRAINGER, P. 1995. *Report on the assessment of County Geological Sites in Devon*. ERC Report 95/, Earth Resources Centre, University of Exeter.

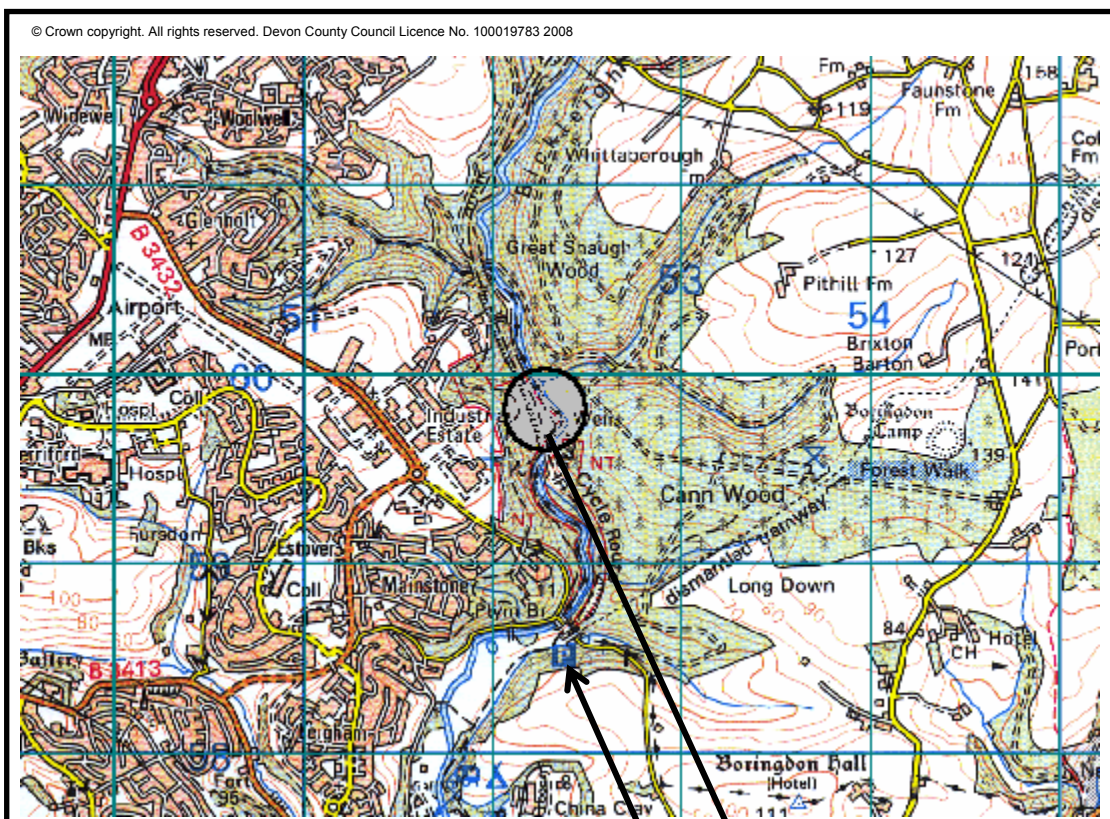
THOMAS, R. Bickleigh Vale Quarries. *Devon Archaeology*. Vol. 4, pp.28-32. Devon Archaeological Society.

Detailed Geology: Middle Devonian slate which is generally uniform and well cleaved with narrow bedding lamination in places. Bedding cleavage relationships difficult to observe *in situ* but excellent material occurs on waste tips. Cleavage and bedding have a generally steep southerly dip. Cleavage is locally deformed by later folding with sub-horizontal axial planes. The slate is intruded by a microgranitic 'Elvan' dyke, which is exposed and has been worked in two quarries. It has a near vertical to steep southerly inclination approximately conformable with the cleavage of the slate. In detail the contact with the slate is irregular and cuts across the cleavage.

LOCATION PLAN

BICKLEIGH VALE QUARRIES MAINSTONE/ESTOVER, PLYMOUTH

National Grid Ref: SX 523 596



Scale 1: 40,000



Site Locality

Small quarries and cuttings along a track through the woodland on the west side of the Plym Valley.

Parking at Plymbridge

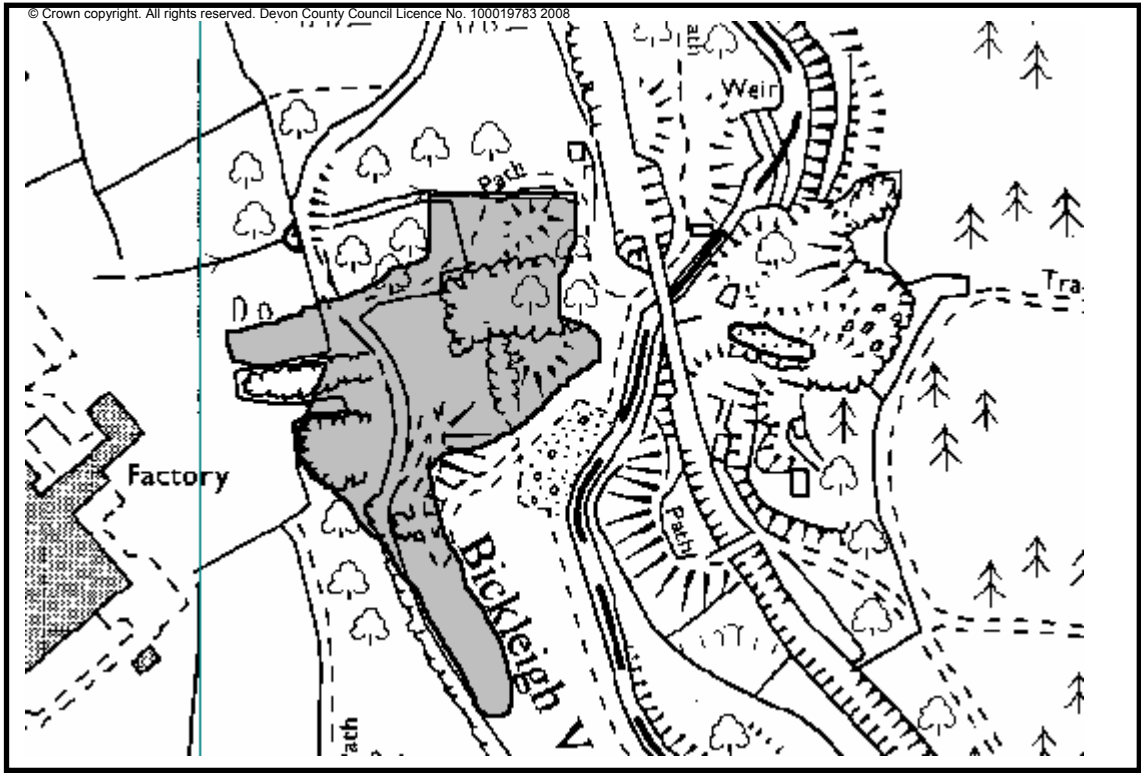
Parking and Access

- Car parks at Plymbridge. Access from these by various paths and tracks through National Trust Woodland.

SITE PLAN

BICKLEIGH VALE QUARRIES MAINSTONE/ESTOVER, PLYMOUTH

National Grid Ref: SX 523 596



Scale 1: 5,000

Approx. Extent of Site

Main Points of Interest:

- Exposures of Devonian slate with structural features related to slate formation.
- Exposure of a dyke resembling a fine grained granite, intruding into the slate in two of the quarries.
- Can be linked with visit to Cann Quarry on opposite side of valley.