

SITE

Name: Heavitree Quarry

Parish/Ward: Heavitree

Local Authority: Exeter

National Grid Ref: SX 949 921

OS Sheets: 1:50k 192 1:10k SX99 SW, **GS Sheet 1:50k** 325

Locality Description: At the eastern end of a grassed playing area off Coates Road, Quarry Lane, Heavitree, Exeter.

Nature and Status of Site: A small remaining face in a disused quarry. A County Geological Site (www.devonrigs.org.uk).

Summary of Geological / Geomorphological Interest: The area is the type locality for the Heavitree Breccia, first referred to by Sir Henry De La Beche in 1839, as the 'Conglomerates of Heavitree'. It is the only good exposure of the Heavitree Breccia remaining accessible in the city limits, apart from the related outcrop on Quarry Lane itself. The breccia consists of sub-rounded to angular grains up to 40mm in diameter, in a matrix of finer sands and some clay. Grains include sandstone, chert, minerals, granite and volcanic rocks. The rock was formerly an important building stone in the City and many of the oldest buildings utilise it in at least part of their construction (including in the city walls).

Safety Considerations: Generally safe, but beware of fallen debris, rubbish and overgrown vegetation.

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

Parking and Access: The area in front of the quarry face is very overgrown and something of a children's adventure play area. The foot of the face is only accessible by steep narrow paths at one side. Parking for cars and minibuses is possible in Coates Road and other roads off Quarry Lane. Quarry Lane is busy and relatively narrow. The quarry can be accessed on foot via a level path beside garages at the corner of Britten Drive and Coates Road. Additionally, there are a number of buses operating throughout the day in Heavitree from Exeter city centre. For timetable details, visit www.traveline.org.uk.

Site Owner: Exeter City Council.

References:

De la Beche, H.T. (1839). Report on the Geology of Cornwall, Devon and West Somerset. Memoir of the Geological Survey of Great Britain. Longman, Orme, Brown, Green and Longmans, London, 648pp.

Dove, J. (1994). Exeter in Stone: an urban geology. Thematic Trails. School of Social Sciences, Oxford Brookes University, 45pp.

Edwards, R.A. and Scrivener, R.C. (1999). The geology of the country around Exeter. *Memoir of the British Geological Survey*, Sheet 325 (England and Wales).

Laming, D.J.C. (1982). The New Red Sandstone. In: Durrance, E.M. and Laming, D.J.C. (eds), *The Geology of Devon*, University of Exeter, pp.148-178.

Scrivener, R.C. (1984). Geological Notes and details for 1:10,000 Sheets. Sheet SX99SW (Exeter, Devon) WA/84/44. Exeter: British Geological Survey.

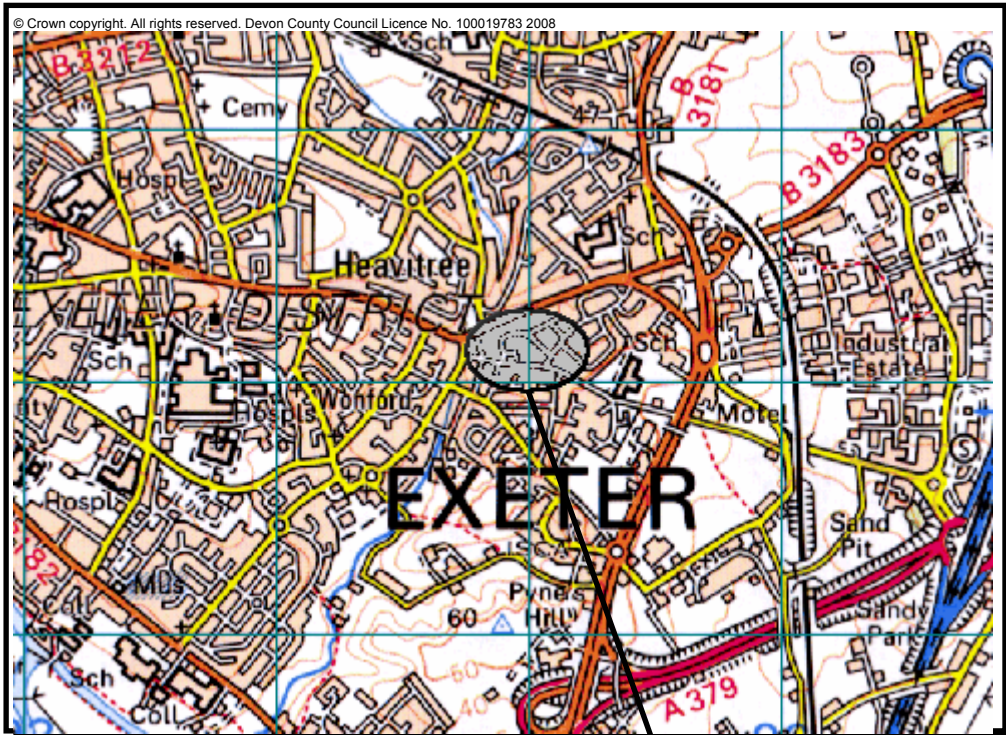
Ussher, W.A.E. (1902). The geology of the country around Exeter. *Memoir of the Geological Survey of Great Britain (England and Wales)*, Sheet 325.

Detailed Geology: Permian, Heavitree Breccia. Face c.6m high. Breccia well cemented, with sub-rounded to angular clasts seldom >40mm, set in a matrix of poorly sorted, medium- to coarse-grained sand with some clay content. The clasts include; indurated sandstone, chert, feldspar (murchisonite), vein quartz, hornfels, quartz porphyry, microgranite, tourmalinite and basic lava. Individual beds range from 0.2-1m in thickness with persistent parallel bedding. They may be graded, show small scale cross bedding and rarely channelling. Lenses, and thin more persistent beds, of red sandstone are scattered through the outcrop. Sub-vertical sand-filled fissures in individual beds which are truncated against the base of the overlying bed may be de-watering structures.

LOCATION PLAN

HEAVITREE QUARRY HEAVITREE, EXETER

National Grid Ref: SX 949 921



Scale 1: 30,000



Site locality

At eastern end of
grassed playing area
off Coates Road,
Quarry Lane.

Parking and Access

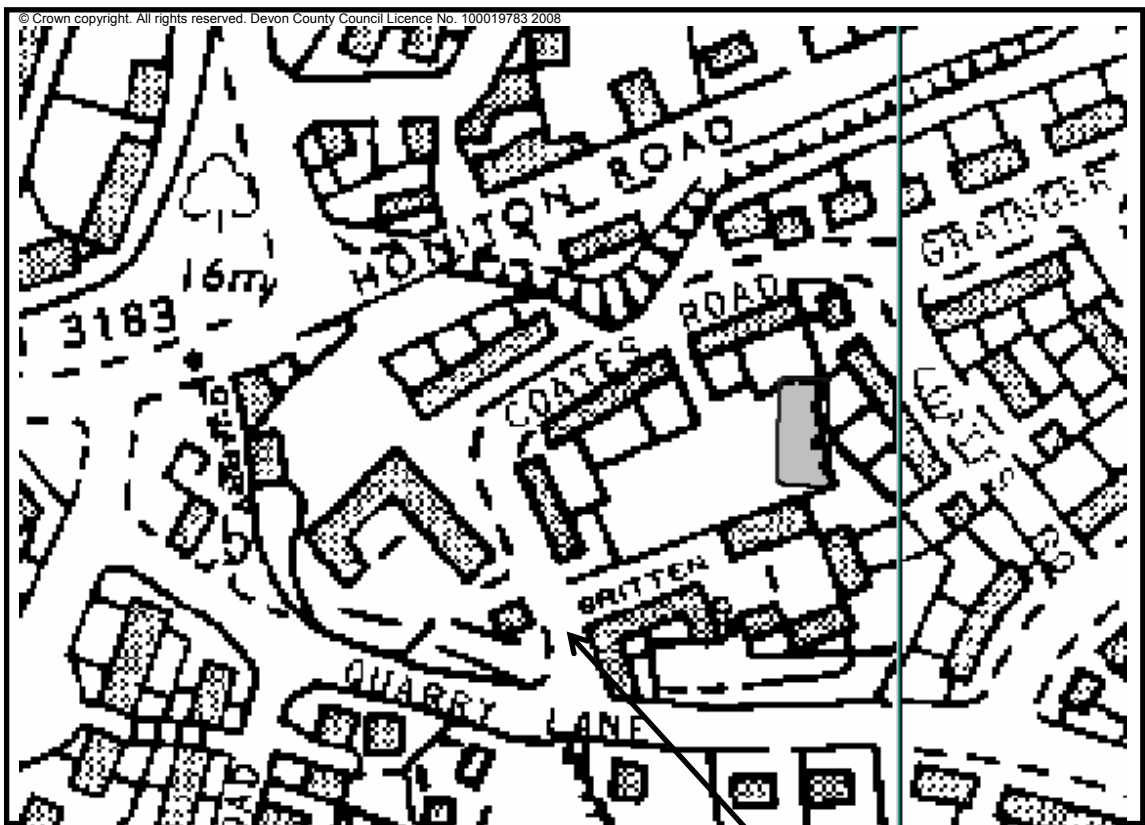
- Parking for cars and minibuses is possible in Coates Road and other roads off Quarry Lane. Quarry Lane itself is busy and fairly narrow. A level path beside garages at the corner of Britten Drive and Coates Road gives access to the playing field. The area in front of the quarry face is very overgrown, with the foot of the face only accessible by narrow paths on one side.

SITE PLAN

HEAVITREE QUARRY

HEAVITREE, EXETER

National Grid Ref: SX 949 921



Scale 1: 2,500



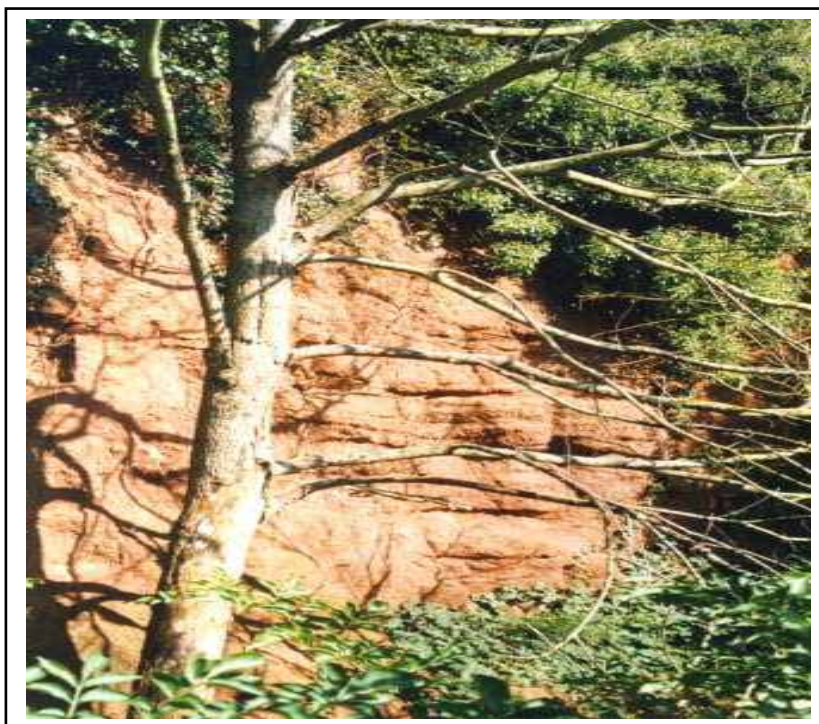
Approx. Extent of Site

Entrance via path
beside garages at
corner of Britten

Main Points of Interest:

- Good exposure of Permian Heavitree Breccia for which it is the type locality.
- Clasts include sandstone, chert, minerals, granite and volcanic rocks.

HEAVITREE QUARRY



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Exposure of Heavitree Breccia. Clasts include sandstone, chert, minerals, granite and volcanic rocks