

Increasing use of concrete, is a welcome event. In addition to providing a fine stone for new facings, the quarry provides a matching stone for long unavailable Craigleith sandstone, of which much of historic Eastern Scotland is built e.g. Dean Bridge (Telford 1832). When I worked for the City Engineer in 1965, we were obliged to use Craigleith stone salvaged from Waterloo Bridge, London, for indents to refurbish spalled parapet stonework at Dean Bridge.

carboniferous cyclothem. He suggested that consideration should be given to interpreting it and allowing public access

Roland Paxton

Cullalo stone was used in its own right for many prestigious works, such as Edinburgh's Melville Monument (Burn/Stevenson 1821) and St. Mary's Cathedral (Gilbert Scott, begun 1874).

As we examined the quarry's historic and current working faces, we learned from Ewan that Cullalo stone is a uniform highly siliceous quartz arenite sandstone from the West Lothian Shale Formation of the Lower Carboniferous period.

We stood on an uncovered bedding plane where the operation of splitting off the stone was explained. Small explosive charges were carefully placed in natural fissures in order to obtain large blocks suitable for ashlar work.

The stone is slightly lighter in colour than Craigleith and not so hard. It is soft when quarried, hardens on exposure to air and is long lasting. It is readily cut on site using state-of-the-art Italian machinery with a rotating disc and wire. A cu. yd. of ashlar cut into thin blocks costs about £3,000. The quarry is operated by Tradstocks of Stirling as a small scale operation with minimal detriment to the environment.

The Panel recognises the valuable input of the Scottish Stone Liaison Group and others in encouraging this venture, the only operational quarry of its kind in Scotland.



Italian stone cutting machine © Roland Paxton

The visit continued at the Scottish Lime Centre, Charlestown, with Roz Artis-Young as host. She began by giving a presentation on the Centre's work and facilities, with emphasis on the properties and use of lime mortar, followed by a practical demonstration of lime slaking.

The party then went to the railway cutting from Glen Hole Quarry where Norman Butcher pointed out that the strata visible, ranging from marine to non-marine, was a magnificent example of a

PHEW Visit to Cullalo Quarry

In order to promote a better understanding of traditional building materials, the Scottish Group of PHEW recently organized visits to the re-opened Cullalo Quarry near Aberdour and the Scottish Lime Centre, Charlestown.

The visit to the quarry was led by Dr Ewan Hyslop of the British Geological Survey, and geologist Norman Butcher. The re-opening of this quarry, which had first operated from c.1820 for about a century, closing as demand reduced with the

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The members' newsletter
of ICE East of Scotland Region
September 2005

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