

ENJOYING YOUR VISIT

We want you to enjoy your visit, so please remember you will be sharing the countryside with:

- Other visitors enjoying themselves.
- People who live in the countryside.
- Wildlife and farm animals.

Walkers:

- Please wear suitable footwear and clothes.
- Please keep your dog under close control.
- Leave gates and property as you find them.
- Please protect plants and animals and take your litter home.
- Be safe, plan ahead and always give yourself enough time to finish the route before it gets dark.

Acknowledgements:

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GROUNDWORK COVENTRY AND WARWICKSHIRE

Groundwork's vision is of a society made up of sustainable communities that are vibrant, healthy and safe, which respect the local and global environment and where individuals and enterprise prosper. Our purpose is to build sustainable communities in areas of need through joint environmental action.

THE NORTH ARDEN HERITAGE TRAIL

The Quarryman's walk is a circular walk off The North Arden Heritage Trail, a project which is being delivered by the North Warwickshire Community Partnership. This ambitious three-year project is working with local communities to establish a 25 mile circular heritage trail in North Warwickshire, with funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund and the support of the Community Partnership and Parish Councils. The proposed trail passes through the parishes of Atherstone, Mancetter, Hartshill, Ansley, Arley, Astley, Fillongley, Maxstoke, Shustoke, Nether Whitacre, Kingsbury, Dordon, Baddesley Ensor and Merevale.

This major new walking route will promote the area's fascinating local heritage, people and distinctive landscapes. Where possible the route will be developed to make it accessible for all.

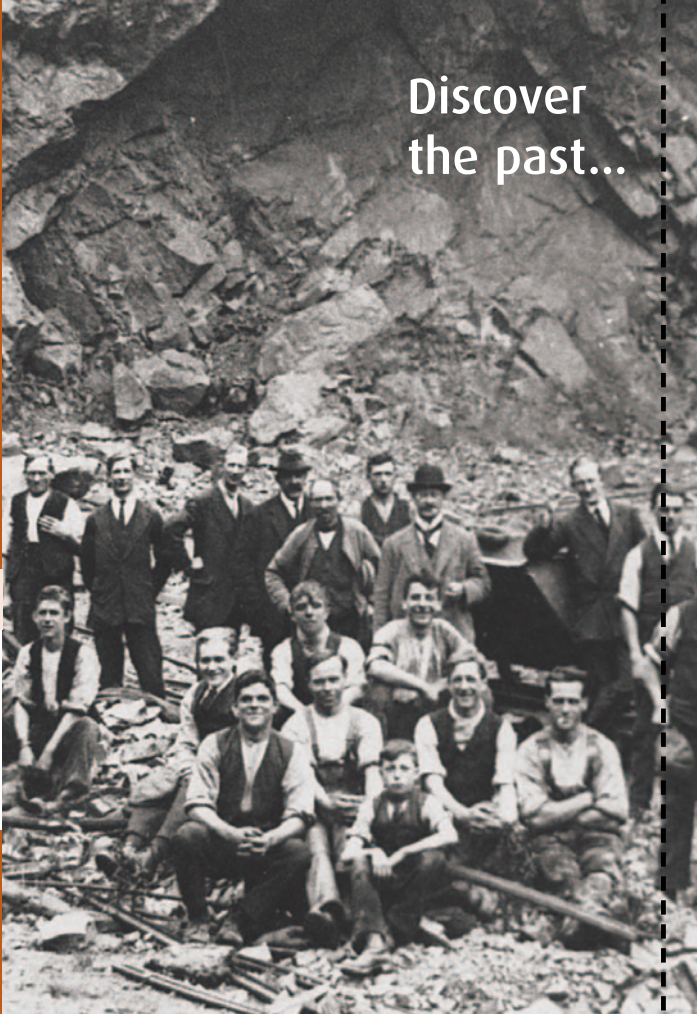
This project has been made possible with support from:



Thanks – Enormous thanks to the many local people, the Coventry Canal Society and children from Michael Drayton Junior School, Hartshill, for your valuable contribution to the Quarryman's Walk.

QUARRYMAN'S WALK

Discover the past...



WELCOME TO QUARRYMAN'S WALK

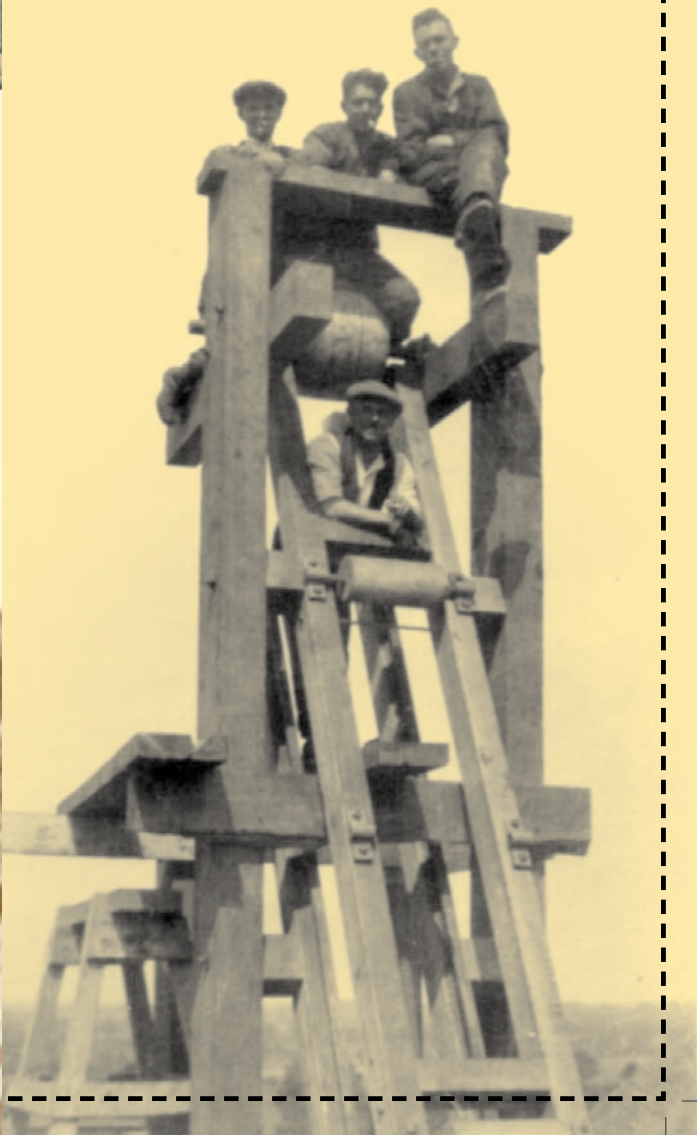
Welcome to the Quarryman's Walk – a way-marked trail of approximately 10km (6.21 miles) around the old quarries and countryside of Hartshill in North Warwickshire.

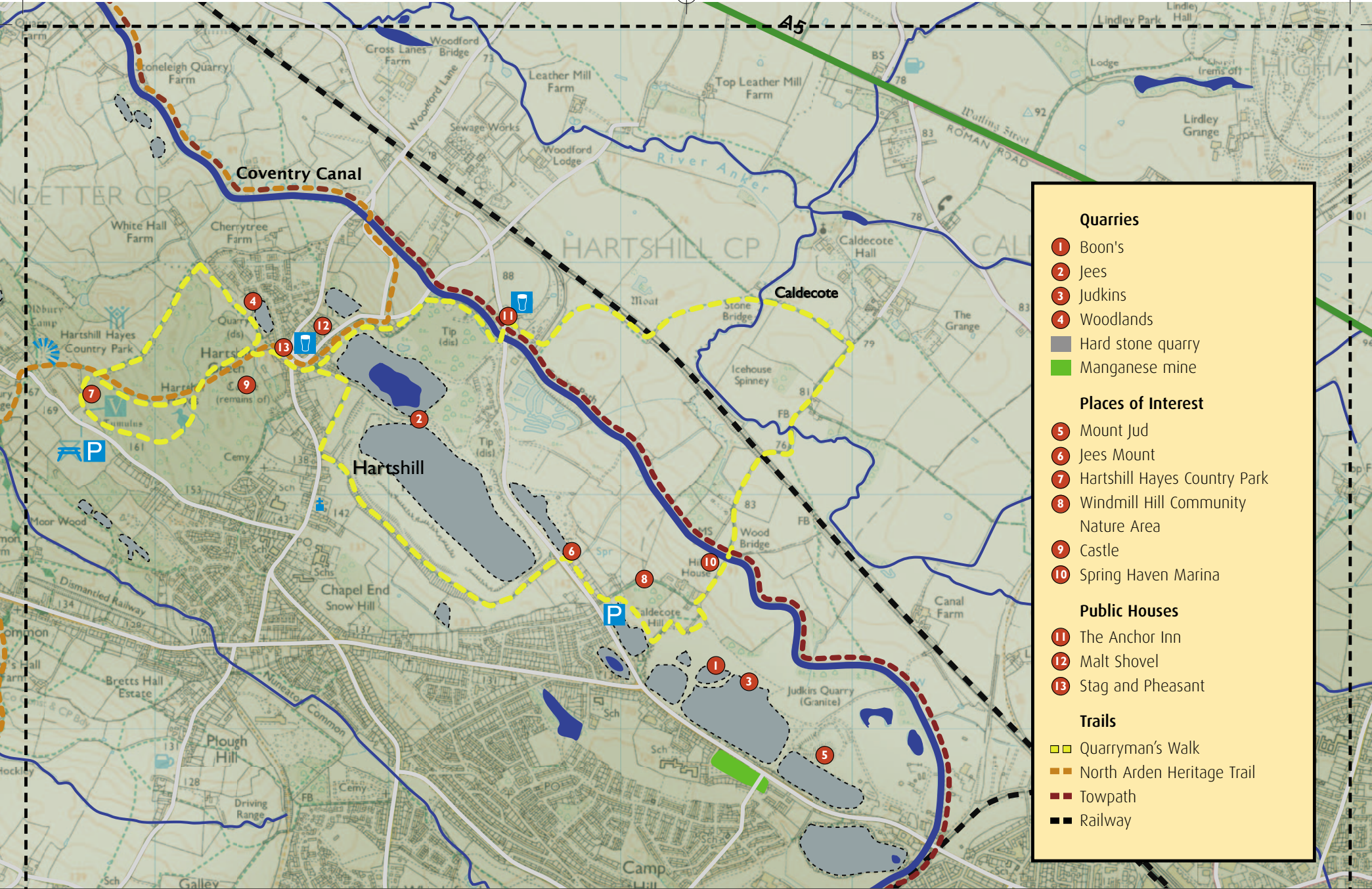


Stone and manganese have been quarried in this area since Roman times. Quarries and quarrymen have come and gone but their legacy remains. Walk the Quarryman's Walk to discover impressive views of Jeas Quarry, Boon's Quarry and man-made Mount Jud. Stone sculptures, heritage and geological information feature along the route to tell you more about Hartshill's fascinating and explosive history!

It is possible to walk shorter sections of the trail by using the canal towpath and other footpaths in the area. The trail is steep in places and can be muddy, so strong boots are advised during winter and wet periods.

For more information about the Quarryman's Walk please contact Groundwork Coventry and Warwickshire on 01676 524320 or email: co@groundwork.org.uk





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EARTH MOVING

About 500 million years ago this area was near the South Pole! For millions of years before and after that time, the landmasses of the world were on the move, breaking away and re-forming to create the continents that we know today.

The Hartshill Ridge was created when rocks were thrust up by terrific movements in the Earth's crust. The Ridge runs roughly northeast to southwest. It is made of sandstones, shales, volcanic lava, ash and dust. The rocks here are very hard and stone has been quarried in this area for centuries.

UNDERGROUND RICHES

Quartzite

The main product quarried here was quartzite. This is a very hard stone and has been used for road building and for making granite 'setts' – kerbstones and cobbles. You can see the stone used locally in walls and buildings in Hartshill, particularly in Holy Trinity church and the castle.



Manganese

Manganese was probably first discovered here by the Romans. Later, medieval monks worked the manganese deposits and in the early 19th century an extensive quarrying and processing industry developed. The manganese from Hartshill was used for bleaching textiles.

Hard labour

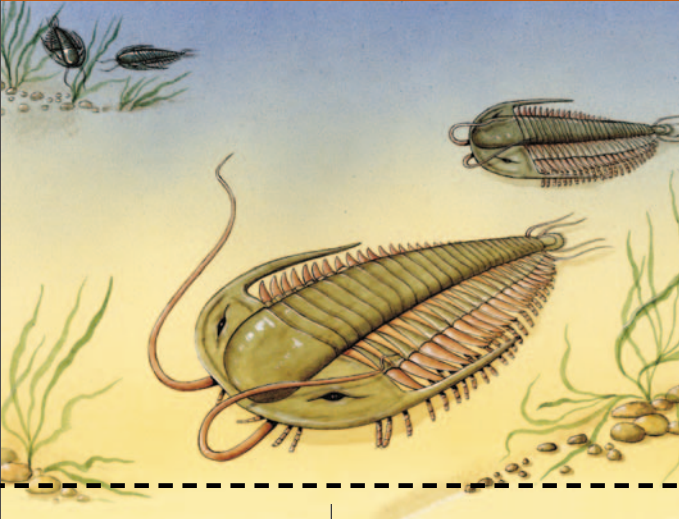
A quarryman's life was hard. In the early days they used only simple hand tools – like a levering bar, chisel and hammer. Sometimes the quarrymen worked from cradles suspended on ropes down the rock face.



Later, gunpowder was used to open up large areas of rock. The stone was 'dressed' in the quarry before being taken away on horse drawn wagons. Machines gradually replaced horses; firstly small steam driven locos then diesel-engined dump trucks.

Woodlands Quarry

Buried in the rocks at an old Manganese quarry on the edge of Hartshill Hayes are unique small, shelly fossils over 530,000,000 years old. The most significant fossil is the Trilobite, an ancient ancestor of the insect, lobster, woodlice and king crab. Natural England have listed this quarry as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).



Coventry Canal

The Quarryman's Walk passes over the Coventry Canal at Wood Bridge. Stone was brought to the canal by horse-drawn wagons, lorries and rail where it was tipped into narrowboats for onward transportation. Its main use was for roadbuilding.



Jeess Quarry

The huge hole in the ground at Jeess Quarry took about 40 years to create. Over 1,000,000 tonnes of waste rock had to go somewhere and the spoil tip, known locally as Mount Jeess, was formed!