

# LOWER ALLITHWAITE PARISH COUNCIL



## ALLITHWAITE QUARRY - REPORT

**Ver1.0**  
**Nov 2016**

## INTRODUCTION

Mike Lamb and Mary Wilson visited the Quarry this morning, Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November, to remove broken bottles and have a look around the site. The PC handed over the management of the Quarry to the butterfly group in 2010 and they have made progress in removing a lot of the rubbish and over grown vegetation

The site is in poor condition, overgrown with debris from discarded rubbish. Although it is feasible to negotiate the many paths with caution, it is not a safe environment to walk through.

Owned by the Parish Council, public access is via Quarry Lane (a private road) from the local post office that runs past the community playing field. Past the houses and over the stile the once cart-wide lane flanked with dry stonewalls is reduced to a narrow track through the Thorns.

Although about a quarter of the SSSI is access land (under the CROW act) there is no access to the private land comprising part of the SSSI.

This short report, and action plan, is being suggested as the way forward, what is obvious is that there is no quick or easy solution, and anything proposed will need funding.

## BACKGROUND

The entrance is via Quarry Lane a private road which leads to an overgrown path to a gate and stone tile.

The Quarry is an outcrop of Urswick limestone located between Grange over Sands and Allithwaite. In 1987, 25.9ha were designated as a SSSI. Primarily because of the limestone grassland on shallow soils. At this time it was ranked, in terms of rareness and variety of plant species, only just behind the premier sites of Arnside Knott SSSI and Scout and Cunswick Scar.



Allithwaite Quarry provides a unique combination of natural and industrial heritage. The Quarry lies within a Site of Special Scientific Interest and near an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.



Principal habitats of importance include chalk grassland, with many orchid and butterfly species, yew and mixed woodland and bat hibernation sites.

The site contain standing remains of lime works that are designated Scheduled Ancient Monuments, being of national significance for their archaeology.





The project is to develop safe way-marked self-guiding trails around the site. These will follow existing tracks and paths. Some of this ground is rough tussocks grassland and rocky terrain.

The short grassy areas and exposed rock can be slippery when wet. Spoil heaps and scree slopes can be unstable underfoot and should not be climbed.

A chalk grassland reserve rich in wild flowers.

Rich in flowers such as horseshoe vetch (a plant needed for the chalk hill blue butterfly) and several types of orchids, this chalk grassland reserve is best visited during the summer months.

A yew and broad-leaved woodland can also be found around the edge of this former chalk quarry.

The Allithwaite Restoration Project was established some time ago but does not seem to meet, we need to ensure the PC has a project group with involvement of the residents to generate ideas on how we can utilise this valuable asset within the village and seek to contribute to the development of the Quarry by making it more accessible to residents and better informing them about its past and what can be seen there today.

The aim of the Project is to reveal, consolidate and preserve the lime kiln structure so it is effectively managed for future generations, conserve and enhance habitat within the kiln for a range of bat species and improve visitor access and interpretation facilities.



In the 50s and 60s, the Quarry was used as a dumping ground for all types of waste material, fly tipping and other items.

Broken glass, discarded fire place, car remains, bicycle, and other items buried under the overgrown vegetation will make getting the quarry into a safe environment costly.

The Lime Kiln, appears to be in a reasonable condition but needs a grill to the face and, possible, pointing of the walls.



This is the path leading down to the Lime Kiln.



The Lime Kiln.

For centuries, the limestone was quarried away and burnt in kilns to produce lime (or calch) for use as an agricultural fertiliser, in the building trade for plaster and mortar, and in many industrial processes such as iron productions.



The Lime Kiln and wall which needs pointing and placing of a grill in the front of the kiln for safety reasons. It is obvious, from the debris, that someone, probably teenagers, have been visiting the site, possible to eat, drink and be merry!



This overgrown vegetation is obscuring the chimney from the Lime Kiln. This needs a grill placing over the top for safety.





Overgrown path leading to Quarry face and overgrown and indiscernible pond, unable to correctly locate.

A view across to the village, would make a suitable location for a bench.

There is also an ideal location for a picnic table and bench with wonderful views.



## **BUTTERFLIES**

There was a wonderful mosaic of habitats and plant species. Small areas of scrub, woodland on pavement, bracken and limestone grassland which created ideal conditions for a variety of butterflies. Duke of Burgundy, High Browns, Dark Greens, Small Pearl Bordered Fritillaries and Northern Brown Argus were all present.

Sadly this glorious biodiversity is no longer a feature but nevertheless it is still a fascinating site with the potential to regain some of these butterflies and lost flora. Most of the area is in private ownership and the complexities of multiple holdings plus several graziers undoubtedly contributed to the lack of management and the SSSI status now being “unfavourable and deteriorating”.

Industrial relicts included cars, bikes glass, pottery, batteries, old stoves, a rusty 7metre long band saw and the proverbial kitchen sink. The portable and unsightly has been moved. Much I suspect remains, under several decades worth of creeping flora. There are a wonderful variety of native and alien plants.

## VISITOR IMPROVEMENTS

The Allithwaite site has good public access with nearby train station, Kents Bank, and potential for public parking in the Community Centre which is linked by a private road to the Quarry.

We plan to create a self-guided trail linking the Quarry lime works with a variety of routes that will provide the public with an enjoyable journey through the old industrial and wildlife rich landscape.

Footpath repairs and improvements will make the route more accessible and provide wildlife enhancements. New interpretation panels will be installed at the kiln and at key points along the trail. A project webpage, self-guided trail leaflet, education pack and events will allow people to discover more about this fascinating landscape.

## PROJECT AIMS

The overall aim of the project:

- Create an area open to the public in which the best elements of the Wartbarrow SSSI could be found, be these butterflies, habitats, plants or birds.
- Create an opportunity for the community to be involved in management work and form a focus for further community events in the future.
- Begin to create and enhance some excellent areas of habitat to attract and support wildlife on the site.
- To begin to link management of the Quarry to a wider landscape in providing breeding and feeding habitat for wildlife such as butterflies and moths.

## OTHER POINTS OF INFORMATION

Removal of non-natives, advice from the council over the safe method of removal of Japanese Knotweed, this could be dug out and bagged up, but advice must be sought. Cotoneaster horizontalis is also present in the quarry and should be sprayed in early summer.

With the expertise, available from members of the village it will be possible to draw up a management plan from which work can be planned and grants could be applied for.

## MANAGEMENT PLAN

There are several issues which will require a substantial amount of funding, some from the Parish Council and from other funding sources. These figures are **only** estimated and need to be confirmed:

### Part 1:

#### 1. Securing the Boundaries

Northern boundary, replace gates and improve footpath:	£ 6,500
Southern boundary (if required)	£ 3,000

## 2. Lime Kiln

Metal grates to the top and front for health and safety issues, repoint the exterior with lime mortar:	£25,000
3. Clear debris and install bench:	£ 1,500
4. Install notice boards:	£ 500
5. Install litter bin/dog refuse bin:	£ 1,000
6. Signage (to be agreed with residents)	£ 2,500
7. Removal of scrap and other debris:	£ 2,000
8. Contamination Survey	£ 1,500

### Part 2:

1. Create additional footpaths through the quarry:	£ 5,000
2. Restore pond areas at Quarry face:	£ 5,000

Total estimated costs Part1 and 2: **£53,500**

### Estimated Annual Maintenance costs

1. Emptying rubbish bin:	£ 500
2. Keeping footpaths clear 4 x 2 hours at £10 per hour	£ 100
3. Strimming open areas 2 x 2 hours at £10 per hour	£ 50
4. Spraying – weed control	£ 80

Total estimated costs maintenance: **£ 730**

The Lime Kiln is the most expensive part of this project (and it is not a firm estimate but from previous information) if the PC were to allocate 20% for match funding purposes then it would seem appropriate to allocate **£11,100** from the PC budget.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY

It is very important that anyone carrying out work on the site, for example during working parties, is adequately insured for the task and is aware of the health and safety requirements relating to that task.

A risk assessment should be carried out each time any work is carried out, and for any activity that includes the public.

## VISITORS AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

An important part of managing a community site for wildlife is to keep parishioners and visitors informed. Information on site, explaining how and why the area is to be managed and the wildlife and wild flowers people can expect to see is very helpful. This may be in the form of a professionally produced sign and/or a self-guided trail.

Community involvement on the site, (either by helping with maintenance or simply by using and enjoying the site) is key in creating and maintaining interest and support. Interpretation projects, for example, are an excellent opportunity to involve local schools or other community groups and help inspire them to take an interest.

## **FUNDING**

Several grants are available to help fund community projects such as this. An application could include capital expenses such as information boards, hedgerow plants, tools, bench and materials to create a pathway.

The Lime Kiln is the most expensive part of this project.



## LOWER ALLITHWAITE QUARRY ACTION PLAN – 2016

Issue	Aim	Objectives	Actions	Organisations	Date completed
1. Allithwaite Community Group - ACG	To involve the residents of Allithwaite in the project by forming ACG.	i. Community involvement.	ACG to explore participatory budgeting with SLDC, PC and other funding organisations.	Allithwaite Community Group, SLDC and CCC	March 2017
		ii. Raise awareness of the conservation area. Protect the village from inappropriate changes to the quarry.	PC to develop voluntary code of conduct and monitor with SLDC enforcement officer	Allithwaite Community Group, SLDC, PC, CCC	March 2017
		iii. Protect and enhance existing levels of access to the local countryside.	PC to organise survey, identify improvements needed and work with ACG to prioritise a programme of work.	Allithwaite Community Group, SLDC and CCC	March 2017

Issue	Aim	Objectives	Actions	Organisations	Date completed
2. Securing the boundaries	To ensure that the Northern and Southern boundaries are safe and accessible.	i. To replace broken and damaged gates.	ACG to provide details of existing gates and stiles and those requiring improvement or replacing.	Allithwaite Community Group, SLDC, PC and CCC	May 2017
		ii. Improve footpaths removing overgrown areas for safe walking.	ACG to provide details of path improvements required.	Allithwaite Community Group, SLDC, PC, and CCC.	March 2107
		iii. Protect and enhance existing levels of access to the quarry.	ACG to prioritise a programme of work.	ACG.	March 2017

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Aim</b>	<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Organisations</b>	<b>Date completed</b>
3, Lime Kiln	To ensure that access to the Lime Kiln is safe environment,	i. Secure the top of the lime kiln.	Fixing of metal grill on the exhaust exit to the lime kiln.	ACG and PC.	May 2017
		ii. Secure the lime kiln oven and re-pointing of the surrounding wall.	Fixing of metal grill to the front of the kiln and re-point the outside walls.	ACG and PC.	May 2107

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Aim</b>	<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Organisations</b>	<b>Date completed</b>
4. Clearing of the debris to provide seating and picnic area.	To give residents and visitors a place to sit awhile admiring the views and the ability to have a picnic.	Remove debris and install seating bench with table.	ACG to prioritise a programme of work for the debris clearance and installation of seating and table.	Allithwaite Community Group, SLDC, PC and CCC	May 2017

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Aim</b>	<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Organisations</b>	<b>Date completed</b>
5. Communication	Install noticeboards and leaflets.	To have notices explaining about the quarry and leaflets available to describe the walks and other amenities in the village.	ACG to prioritise a programme of work for the installation of suitable noticeboards and appropriate leaflets.	Allithwaite Community Group and PC.	Oct 2017

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Aim</b>	<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Organisations</b>	<b>Date completed</b>
6. Litter and dog waste.	Install waste bins for normal refuse and dog waste.	Suitable placed litter and dig refuse bins with appropriate notices.	ACG to develop plan for suitable sites for bins.	Allithwaite Community Group and PC.	Oct 2017

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Aim</b>	<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Organisations</b>	<b>Date completed</b>
7. Contamination survey.	To have contamination survey due to the previous use of the quarry for dumping of rubbish.	Clean and safe environment for residents and visitors.	ACG to enlist the help of certified conservation survey.	Allithwaite Community Group, SLDC and PC.	Oct 2017

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Aim</b>	<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Organisations</b>	<b>Date completed</b>
8. Create additional footpaths and restore the pond.	To provide extra path ways for residents and visitors to and from the restored pond.	Provide easy access to the pond by providing well signed path ways.	ACG to survey and plan for locating the quarry pond and the possibility of extra foot paths.	Allithwaite Community Group and PC.	Oct 2017



<b>Issue</b>	<b>Aim</b>	<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Organisations</b>	<b>Date completed</b>
9. Signage	Install signage directing residents and visitors on the correct paths.	Provide good directions for all who will use the quarry and its surrounding environment.	ACG to develop plan for siting and location of signs.	Allithwaite Community Group, SLDC and PC.	Oct 2017

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Aim</b>	<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Organisations</b>	<b>Date completed</b>
10. Funding	To acquire funding for the project.	ACG to explore all revenue streams to fund the project with the help and assistance of the PC and SLDC.	ACG to trawl the various funding agencies seeking funding.	Allithwaite Community Group, SLDC, PC and CCC	May 2017



**Wartbarrow SSSI**

Site Name	Reason for Designation	Hectares	Acres	Co-ordinates	Year Notified
Wartbarrow	Biological Interest	25.9	64.1	SD 393767	1987