

AN ALTERNATIVE VIEW OF SALTHILL QUARRY NATURE RESERVE

A tour round the Geology Trail at Salthill Quarry as described by pupils from Pendle Primary School, Clitheroe:

Post 1

This is where most of you will have come into Salthill Nature Reserve. The large rock in front of you is a perfect example of a Waulsortian Mudmound. These were first discovered in Waulsort in Belgium and are formed over millions of years by bacteria dying on the bottom of the sea and sediment collecting on top of it. This cycle carries on and a mudmound is created. The reason there are no crinoids in them is because where the bacteria is in the sea there is no oxygen so the crinoids can't live there. This mudmound must be special because geologists from all over Europe come to see it!

Millie



Post 2

Here an amphitheatre of naturally curved rock greets you. You can see different colours and layers in the rock, 16 - 20 metres high. On the field next to the amphitheatre rock you can see lots of cowslips in spring. If you look closely you will see what looks like bird boxes without the hole in it, but these are bat boxes made by Pendle Primary students.

Ben

Post 3

As you look up from this post you will see an amazing limestone feature. This is the only rock face you may touch as the other rock faces can be quite unstable. You can see thin vertical lines (if you look closely) which is where, many years ago, quarry men have put explosives in the rocks to blow them up and to enable you to see this marvellous feature. Just a short walk from this (20m) you'll see another great feature, which are steps leading to a small grotto covered in ivy.

Cara



Post 4

From here you have a beautiful view of Pendle Hill, just right above the factories and buzz of Clitheroe. Looking over the bar on the steps you will see a display of limestone rocks. Seems boring? No these rocks have been formed millions of years ago. Recent research proves that the rocks were laid down horizontally in the first place, but weather conditions left them at a 25 degree angle, facing downwards. In spring, the lovely sound of trees rustling and birds singing very nearly blocks out the sounds of traffic!

Tessa

Post 5

Here is a notice board that has information about wildflowers and some creatures that may be around somewhere. There is a rocky hill that's made from limestone. There are also little crinoids all over the hill and you may see some and see how small they are. You can also see Pendle Hill, which is a nice view.

Saskia

Post 6

When you get to Post 6 you'll see loads and loads of fossils, little stones and different things. You can find all these things if you walk straight ahead from the post. As you are walking forward from the post you will see a wall which is actually a bench when you stand in front of it. Also you will see that there are some patterns on the bench. As you walk on down the rocky slopes, look down and you will see millions and millions of fossils everywhere. But when you go near the slopes there may be taped areas that you must not step inside. They are to protect the bee orchids that grow there. Did you know that the bench at the top incorporates crinoid sculptures within its design? Post 6 was my favourite out of all of the posts!

Humyra



Post 7

From this post you can see the industries and there is a beautiful and clear view of Pendle Hill which has legends about witches up there. There is also Dugdale's factory in sight. This part of Salthill has lots of snails.

Seona

Post 8

The rocks just beyond the fence may look strange and man-made because they are so smooth. The reason they are like this is because thousands of years ago they were smoothed over by a glacier. In the distance to the left you can see the top of Pendle Hill and slightly right the steeple of St. Mary's church sticking out like a sore thumb.

Millie

Post 9

There is a huge amount of rock which leads round quite far into the distance. If you look back the way you came, you can see a previous post at the towering mudmound. Also the ground you are standing on is quite sinky and soft. Wouldn't you agree? It is a nice place for a family to pack up a little picnic and enjoy the view whilst resting on the available rocks. It is also home to lots of different animals.

Daniel

Post 10

Here is a very good place to sit and have a rest or have some lunch. You can see the amazing limestone and there's ash saplings. To the right of the big limestone you will see lots of sticks and twigs, these are the habitats of lots of creatures such as spiders and/or hedgehogs.

Tom