

Helen Harris

Working the quarry.

Here in the quarry, as you see, it's a lovely tranquil scene at the moment, very different from what it must have been in the days when all the work was going on, it would have been very noisy and very busy with men working, and now you see there's that pool of water now, and it's really quite a nature reserve here and there are some relics of it, there's the part of a derrick and a winch which gives you a reminder of the work that was going on.

Can you tell me about how the granite was quarried and then worked?

Yes, well they would have taken out the large blocks of stone from the quarry using picks and gun powder and then they would have cut the setts, as they were called, separate blocks, they would have split the larger pieces by means of a system called feather and tare, and that involved making a line of holes along the line of the rock where they wanted it to split, for which they would use a tool called a jumper, these days of course they can use a drill for that purpose.