

Courtney Heard

Meldon Quarry during the mid 20th century.

Its nothing like it used to be, it used to be 250 men work there, yeah, and they'd all cycle there and go along the railway tracks, then they had minibuses bringing them all in from Bridestowe, Northlew, Bratton Clovelly, North Tawton, Hatherleigh, you know; 250 men worked there, and they cracked stones by hand, they'd be on piece work. But years ago they used to blast it out, in the morning there'd be a half-past eight blast, and then twenty-to-one, 1 o'clock and quarter-past-one, and twenty to four, you didn't need a watch, you could always tell the time by the blasting. And there was always a train left Okehampton at 1 o'clock, so if you were out in the fields working you could see this train puffing out and you knew exactly what time it was and that was dinner time.