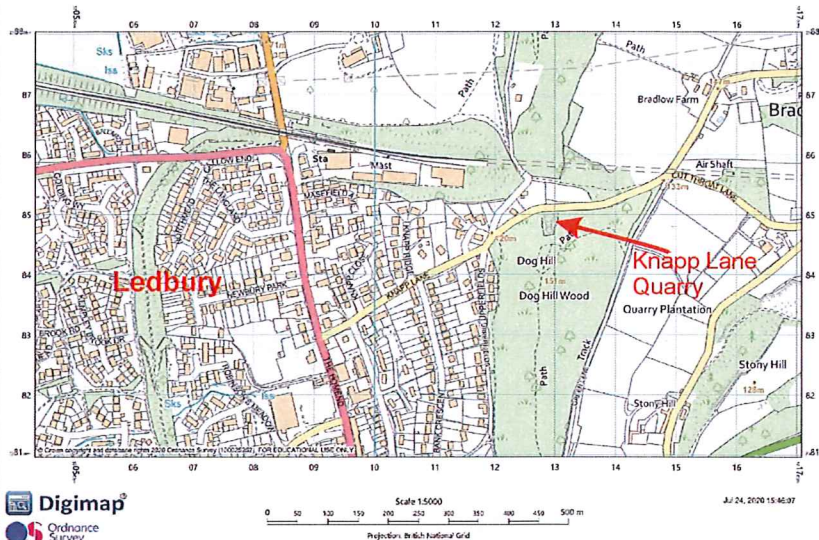


## Proposal for geological site maintenance work at Knapp Lane Quarry, Ledbury.

The site is a disused quarry dug into the hillside of Dog Hill. Its extreme dimensions are about 80m x 20m and about 10m height on the back wall. The quarry is at NGR SO 7128 3848. Map 1 shows the location. It is designated as a Local Geological Site. The quarry and the surrounding woodland are owned by the Forestry Commission.

This site exhibits two of the rock formations of the Silurian age. These are the Aymestry Limestone and the Lower Ludlow Siltstone. Both are to be seen in other local quarries but the present exposure shows an easily approachable exposure of the Aymestry Limestone. This is important since the quarry is a site on the route of a recently instituted geological trail around Ledbury and its Silurian hills, with a guide published by the Earth Heritage Trust. Only the short face in the Limestone in the south-east corner, shown as a short purple line in Map 2, is the main subject of this proposal.

Map 1 Location of Knapp Lane Quarry



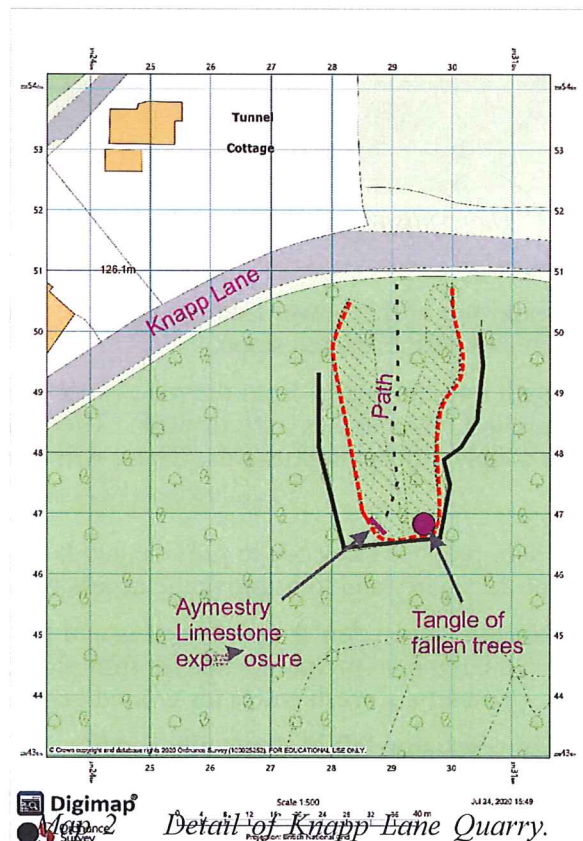
Access to the site is straightforward. It is about 1km from the centre of Ledbury and opens directly onto the narrow Knapp Lane. A rough footpath runs by the roadside. Parking for a few cars is available a couple of hundred metres to the east on the lane.

Map 2 shows the layout of the quarry. It exposes two rock formations of the local Silurian rocks. These are the Aymestry Limestone on the west side of the quarry and the Lower Ludlow Siltstone on the east side (WJ Barclay — report for EHT, 2008).

The rocks are rubbly nodular to massive, pale grey (weathering to buff/orange) limestones with silty clay interbeds (Aymestry Limestone). The rock beds dip steeply to the west at about eighty degrees. Green siltstones with thin limestone layers appear in the east of the quarry. These are the topmost beds of the Lower Ludlow Siltstone. A prominent bedding plane in green siltstone marks the eastern boundary of the quarry.

The only good and accessible rock face in the quarry is the exposure of the Aymestry Limestone in the south-east corner and this is the target of the proposed clearance work. The rock face appears to be safe but is partly obscured by the lower parts of an evergreen tree (Fig. 1). The obscuring vegetation needs to be removed and the face cleared of moss and other growth.

The south-east corner of the quarry is covered by a matrix of fallen trees. (Fig. 2) This covers an apparently good exposure of the siltstone but is hazardous and will not be approached



Map 2 Detail of Knapp Lane Quarry.  
The purple line shows the face for the proposed clearance. The purple circle shows an area of fallen trees (Hazardous).





*Fig. 1 The exposure of the Aymestry Limestone*



*Fig. 2. The hazardous fallen trees.*



*Fig. 3 The exposure of the Lower Ludlow Siltstone*



*Fig. 4. The obscured path into the quarry.*

The exposure of the Lower Ludlow Siltstone in the eastern quarry face is difficult to approach because of a steep and unstable scree slope.

The path into the quarry from the road is not immediately obvious (Fig. 4) but is easily found beneath the low ground cover and is easy to walk. There are very few obstacles in the path, just some small nettles and a couple of tripping hazards. These will be removed as a part of the clearance.

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It is here proposed to work to provide good, accessible exposures of the Aymestry Limestone on the back face of the quarry and to improve the access path from the road.

Remove vegetation from exposures and the path where appropriate and including, where necessary, the removal of some branches from the adjacent small trees. Hand tools will be used together with, possibly, a brush cutter for ground vegetation

Cut vegetation left in a neat pile nearby.

The rocks at the site will not be disturbed so all geological features will be retained in good condition.

The vegetation removal work is expected to be completed in a half day, before 28<sup>th</sup> February 2021. Good weather conditions will be required, both for safety and for the comfort of the volunteer team. The team will comprise probably about ten people and will be supervised by Dr John Payne of the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Earth Heritage Trust (EHT). EHT carries full insurance for staff and volunteers for work of this nature.

Access to the site will be by foot from cars parked nearby. Necessary tools will be carried.