

File ref: (L) SD 73/3

**County:** Lancashire **Site Name:** Harper Clough and Smalley Delph Quarries

**District:** Hyndburn

**Status:** Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

**Local Planning Authority:** Hyndburn Borough Council

<b>National Grid Reference:</b>	<b>Area:</b> Harper Clough 1.3 (ha) 3.2 (ac)
Harper Clough SD 717317	Smalley Delph 1.6 (ha) 3.9 (ac)
Smalley Delph SD 720320	Total 2.9 (ha) 7.1 (ac)

**Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000:** 103 **1:10,000:** SD 73 SW

**Date Notified (Under 1949 Act):** 1979 (Harper Clough Quarry)

**Date Notified (Under 1981 Act):** 1983/1984 **Date of Last Revision:** –

**Other Information:**

1. Smalley Delph Quarry is a new site, ½ km north-east of the existing Harper Clough Quarry SSSI.
2. Harper Clough Quarry, which is known locally as Star Delph, has considerable general Natural history value and is used by local schools for field studies.

**Reasons for Notification:**

Harper Clough and Smalley Delph Quarries are situated about 3 km north-east of Blackburn. Their geological interest may be defined in technical terms as follows:

These two adjacent quarries combine to present an excellent section in the Namurian, cut through the upper part of the Marsdenian and lower part of the Yeadonian Stages. One of the quarries, Harper Clough, contains a remarkable cast of a Stigmarian system, consisting of a series of radial roots. Key sections demonstrating the stratigraphy of the later Namurian.

In layman's terms, the interest of this site may be expressed more simply, and such a statement is provided below. This should not be taken as definitive and further information as to details of the interest can be obtained from the Nature Conservancy Council.

These quarries provide excellent exposures of a series of rock layers originally formed in the Namurian period of geological time, about 315 million years ago. The rocks originated as sediment carried by a major river which built a vast delta southwards from uplands in Scotland. At times the delta became densely vegetated, and the fossilised roots of a large tree that lived on the delta are preserved in an upright position on one of the rock layers in Harper Clough. In general, the quarries are of special geological interest as reference sections for study of rocks of Namurian age.