

Deborah Griffiths

The lime kilns and spoil heaps associated with the lime quarry.

We've got two lime kilns here on opposite sides of the river and they sit just underneath the viaduct; and the one on the right bank is the older of the two and interestingly we have a lime kiln depicted on a map of 1790, which in itself is quite unusual, so we think that probably is the late 18th century kiln. And the other kiln on the left bank of the river is later, it was built probably sometime in the 1870s or 1880s although its of a very similar design to the earlier one, and they're know as draw kilns, because they draw the air up through the pot. You can tell that the older one went out of use whilst this area was still being used for industry because you can see that a ramp has been constructed which partially obscures the access arch to the kiln; we believe that the ramp was used to take material out of this area and up onto the railway line.

The limestone deposit that they were exploiting on the other side of the river wasn't all that large in the first place and the quarry was rather squashed between the hillside behind and the river in front, so there was a problem with what they did with the waste material, and what they did, they built a bridge across the West Okement and they brought the spoil to this side of the river in trucks, and you can see how they actually dumped it because what we have here are what we call finger dumps because they look like fingers radiating out from a hand.