

# Rossendale **Town Trail**

Valley Of Stone

Town Trail

1

This building has been incorporated using stone quarried from the local area.  
More information about the building and trail is available at [www.valleyofstone.org.uk](http://www.valleyofstone.org.uk)

Celebrating Rossendale's Choice: Quarrying Heritage



Rossendale stone in the local urban setting



# Rossendale Town Trail

**This Town Trail was created to show the use of Rossendale stone in the local urban setting, and where possible attempts to accurately source the stone to a particular quarry.** Thirty sites have been chosen in the heartland of Rossendale, the industrial 'Golden Valley', along a linear route from east to west along the A671. The overall length, with detours, is 5.5 miles and all of the sites are identified by blue metal plaques. Text in *italics* indicates a possible walking route.



An early postcard of Bacup is a wonderful symbol of a stone built mill town, indeed English Heritage regard Bacup as one of the best surviving examples. Most Rossendale people, even local experts, take it for granted that the enormous local quarries provided all the urban stone; the detail is more complex. Rossendale was exporting vast amounts of hard-wearing Haslingden Flagstones by rail, most notably to Trafalgar Square. From the 1860s and 1870s many of the sophisticated buildings in Rossendale used 'imported' stone especially from Yorkshire and Derbyshire as it was easier to carve and more pleasing to the whims of architects. Many more sophisticated buildings, including Bacup Conservative Club and Rawtenstall Library, use 'imported' stone. So Rossendale is the 'Valley of Stone' but it's not necessarily all from Rossendale!



## Town Trail Masonry Features:

- 'Water-shot' stonework deliberately tilted at a slight angle to the vertical so that the upper edge projects beyond the lower edge to shed water.
- Smoothed, expensive 'ashlar' stone – usually large stones, smoothed to a fine surface with close joints.
- 'Pitch-faced' protruding masonry where the tops, sides and back of stone blocks were left untreated with the front face squared along a line with a pitching tool.

To find out more about masonry features and the geology of Rossendale go to [www.valleyofstone.org.uk](http://www.valleyofstone.org.uk)

## ① Bacup Natural History Society, 24 Yorkshire Street

This late 18th century building was originally the Hare and Hounds pub, and is now the headquarters of the 'Nats' who moved here in 1948. The front sandstone is slightly 'water-shot' and the stone blocks are well shaped ('dressed'); this stone is considered an inferior product and could possibly have come from the old Heald Quarries north of Bacup. Wavy lines in the stone indicate 'ripple lamination'.

2) Wall of history the large grindstone and crushing circle were from Guide quarry



## ② Wall of History

In the gardens next to **1**, there is an unusual collection of sandstone and gritstone carved display stones and datestones that mark buildings and events in Bacup's history. The large grindstone and crushing circle were removed from Guide Quarry on Todmorden moor in 1979. They are made of gritstone and were used to produce sand in a process called 'sand-knocking'. Before the days of linoleum and carpets, sand was sprinkled on the floors of houses.

*If you return to Bacup centre and go down the A681, Market Street you will see the distinctive former **Lancashire and Yorkshire Bank** (18/20 Market Street). This is built from gritstone (Rough Rock) sourced from an old quarry near the centre of Bacup (behind the Maden Children's Centre). The building dates from 1877 and was designed by local architect Harry Thorndyke Percival. *At Henrietta Street turn left and continue for a short distance.**

4) Architects drawings of Park Crescent

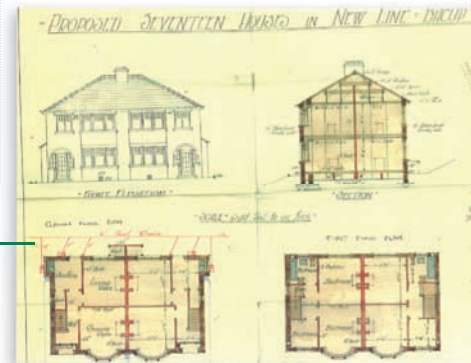
## ③ Forest Mill

was built in 1854 for James Howarth and two brothers, and continued to produce cotton for longer than most mills in the district. The main building has thick beds of strong, 'pitch-faced' local Haslingden Flag. Although the chimney has gone the water tower survives.

*Return to Market Street and continue, turn left down Park Road, turn left along New Line as far as Lane End Road and opposite is*

## ④ 4 Park Crescent, New Line:

Messrs Caygill Brothers built two pairs of semis sometime after 1938. They quarried Haslingden Flags in Cragg Quarry above Cowpe and probably supplied the 'pitch-faced' sandstone.



*Return along New Line towards Market Street passing St Saviours Church built in 1864-65 and designed by architect Edward Whyndam Tarn who opened a new local quarry on the Holt estate to finish the building. Gritstone was used with an interplay of 'pitch-faced' and smooth ashlar textures. Continue down Market Street which becomes Newchurch Road.*

### ⑤ Lee Mill Furnishings 121/125 Newchurch Road.

An 1868 datestone records this building as the former Bacup Co-operative Store, Number 3 Branch. The shape of the datestone neatly matches the upper arched windows. Although the stone work is painted, it is clearly 'pitch-faced'. *Opposite building 5 turn sharp left into Glen Street, leading to Lee Road and Flag Street.*



6) Linked to architect "Owd William's", his initials are carved in the window mullion

⑥ **4A Lee Road.** Richard Williams, 'Owd Williams', a locally well known architect, surveyor and stone dealer, is linked to this building. He took a lease out on land in 1871 and is recorded as stone dealing in an 1875 trade directory. He ran a stone rubbing mill on land through the adjoining square arch. His initials are carved in the 1873 dated window, with intricate Masonic symbolism, so he probably lived or worked here. The stone work is 'pitch-faced' Haslingden Flagstone probably from a 'proto' Lee Quarry.

⑦ **21 Flag Street.** This small 'street-scape', evokes all the old atmosphere of former quarrying. The terraced houses are 'pitch-faced' Haslingden Flag and number 21, 19 and 17 were built in 1902 by Thomas Jackson of Lee Quarry. The upper section shows superb examples of early paving using local flagstones, with flags setts and kerbs and most notably double 'causeys' or causeways with grooved channels cut by the rims of heavy stone trucks. *Return to Newchurch Road and turn left.*

⑧ **141A Newchurch Road.** This recently sandblasted terrace shows courses of 'pitch-faced' Haslingden Flags with door frames, windows and quoins (corner stones) finished in smoother gritstone. There is a good contrast with the next terrace 141 – 131, with its coarser white to ginger gritstones of the Rough Rock. *Detour left down Farholme Lane.*

⑨ **Farholme Mill, Farholme Lane.** Built in 1853-1854 by the first co-operative company - 'The New Bacup and Wardle Commercial Company, this mill was the largest of its time. It is really 4 storeys high with arched windows to former cellars and the coursed stonework is 'water-shot' with a punched texture. *Return to Newchurch Road.*

⑩ **6 David Street.** The terrace shows an original 'street-scape', with flags, setts, kerbs and channels (drains), now unusual in Rossendale. The houses have well coursed 'water-shot' stonework with punched faces. All material is Haslingden Flagstone including lintels and door jambs.

## 11 Toll Bar Business Park.

Built in 1833 for Robert Munn and Brother John, it is now the oldest entire mill still standing in the Bacup area (aka Stacksteads Mill), and at the time, it was the largest spinning mill. Overall the material appears to be Haslingden Flag with roughly punched 'water-shot' stonework and punched flagstone sills.

## 12 366 Newchurch Road.

The cottage is reported to date from 1838 and its most distinctive feature is an outside flight of 'taking-in' steps to an upper door. The steps are cantilevered in part from the wall and made from roughly punched Haslingden Flag. The facade is smoothly punched, 'water-shot' sandstone coursing and the sills and jambs have a finely ridged texture, perhaps made by pointed chisels.

### Taking-in Doors and Steps

Some buildings have 'taking-in' doors on the upper storey, often with steps to the door indicating the property had a dual role. As well as allowing entry of goods, employees could reach upper workshops (mostly for handloom weaving) whilst respecting the privacy of the domestic owners below.



12) Cantilevered steps of roughly punched Haslingden flags



13) Atherton Holme Mill chimney, one of the few surviving chimneys in Bacup

*A short detour turn left down Baldwin Street.*

## 13 Atherton Holme Mill (later Rossendale Mill).

Dated 1860 and originally run by the Spencer Brothers, this was a relatively large mill for the spinning and manufacture of cotton waste. It has strongly 'pitch-faced' masonry known to be from Henry Heys' quarry at Brandwood, Stacksteads.

*Return to Newchurch Road, after the Hare and Hounds on the right is 'The Stacksteads Path of History'.*

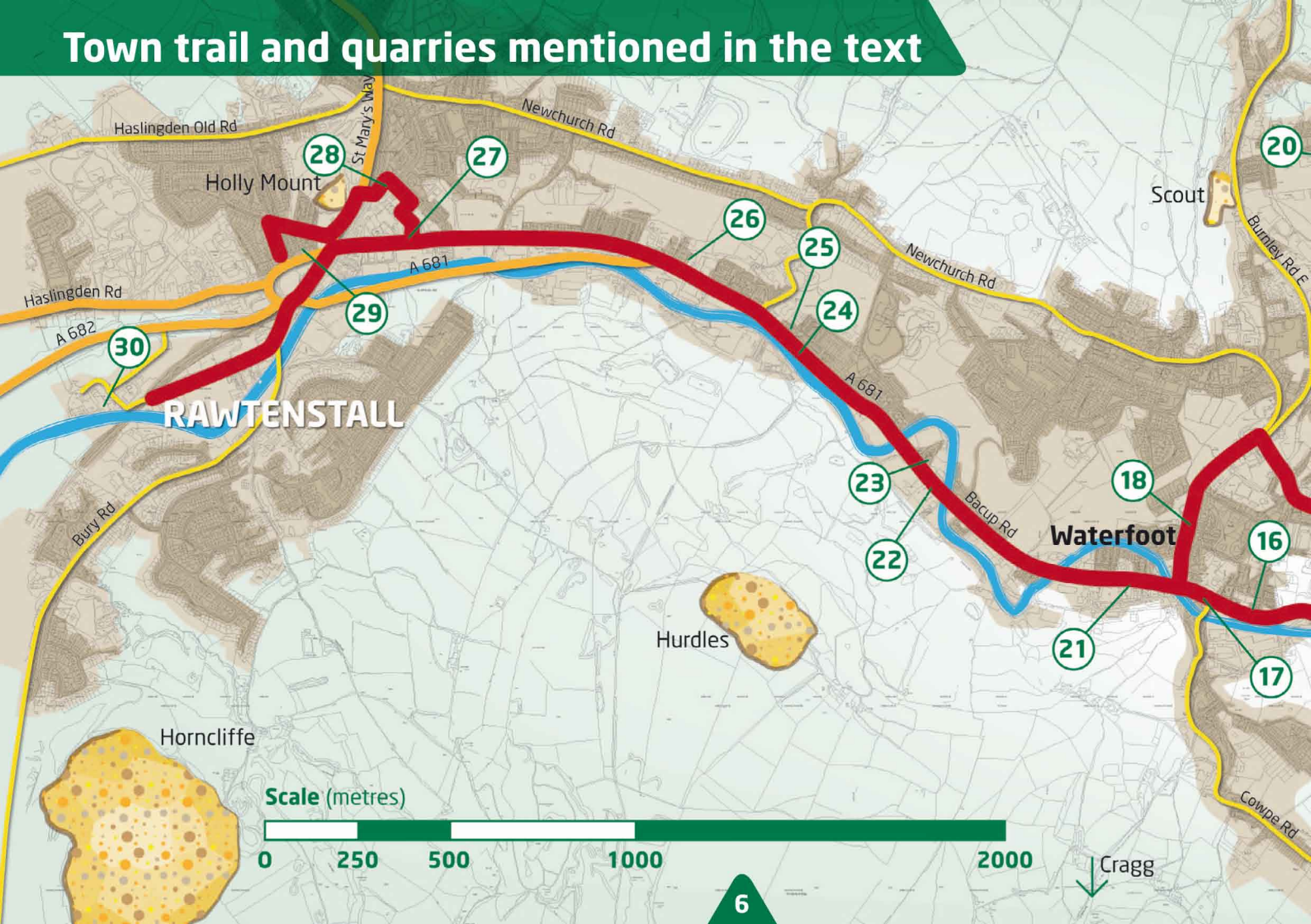
More sandstone and gritstone

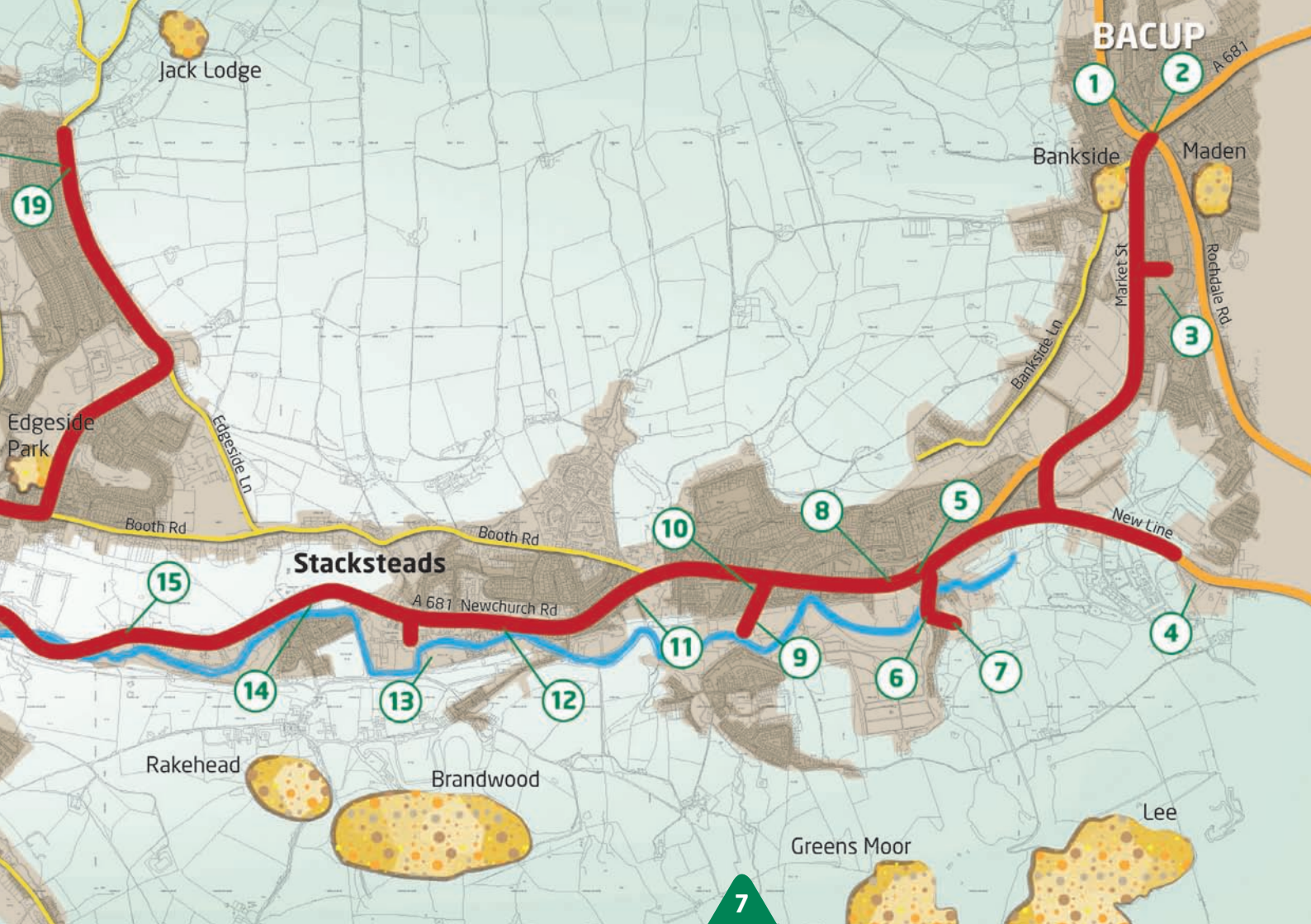
carved stones and datestones are preserved here. There are also named bricks from companies who worked the local quarries and were trying to diversify into bricks around 1900 (County, Siddalls, Shawforth, and Diamond at Horncliffe).

## 14 520 Newchurch Road.

A possible 1930s terrace built by Messrs Caygill Brothers who worked Cragg Quarry. The row has 3 projecting facades and the main stonework is 'pitch-faced' Haslingden Flag with stone dressings and quoins in smoother ashlar.

# Town trail and quarries mentioned in the text





Jack Lodge

BACUP

19

1

2

Bankside

Maden

3

Market St

Rochdale Rd

Edgeside Park

Edgeside Ln

Bankside Ln

Booth Rd

Booth Rd

10

8

5

New Line

Stacksteads

A 681 Newchurch Rd

15

4

14

13

12

11

9

6

7

Rakehead

Brandwood

Greens Moor

Lee

7

**15 Village Pine, Glen Top works.** The datestone JB 1868 indicates this was built as the former stables of John Baxter's Glen Top Brewery. Brewing ceased in 1955. The main masonry is punch faced, Haslingden Flag, and only slightly 'water-shot' with strong ashlar gritstone quoin stones.



15) Punch faced masonry and overall symmetry

**16 Glen House, 652 Bacup Road.** Dated 1850, the building has evidence of upper 'taking-in' doors on the gable. Stonework is Haslingden Flag, including sills and jambs and the side is roughly punched 'water-shot'.

**17 The Royal Hotel, 729 Bacup Road.** Built around 1864, this distinctive building has pitch faced coursing; the door head appears to be a softer rock. A bay window was added in 1876 for Baxter's Brewery, and the datestone is signed by 'Owd Williams' probably using stone from an early Lee Quarry.

*At the centre of Waterfoot turn right at Burnley Road East*, opposite is a very early example of a shopping arcade – **Tricket's Arcade 7/23**

**Victoria Parade.** Dating from 1897, the properties have a glazed canopy and were designed by Samuel Taylor. Stone source is known to be Siddall's Hell Clough quarry now known as Greens Moor Quarry for the hard 'pitch-faced' Haslingden Flag; gritstone (Rough Rock) smoothed ashlar dressings

are from Nuttall's Lee Moor quarries.

*From Baltic Bridge* are good views of the back of a 'pitch-faced' terrace and Haslingden Flagstone back 'landings' over the River Whitewell, with chamfered stone supports.

**18 Waterfoot Conservative Club, 40 Burnley Road East.** Dating from 1889, the architect was P.D Lodge of Manchester and the builder George Benson. The 'pitch-faced' stone is Haslingden Flag from Windle's Scout Bottom Quarry. Lighter coloured gritstone ashlar dressings are from Bankhouse Quarry Bacup and are Rough Rock.

*Continue to* the **New Millennium Theatre, 89 Burnley Road East**, Bethel Baptist Chapel of 1868 was demolished in 1996 but this former Sunday school survives. Designed by 'Owd Williams' and built with 'pitch faced' Haslingden Flag by Richard Cunliffe of Newchurch who ran Scout Bottom Quarries.



*The next detour is a longer one, but picks up on an interesting anomaly at Edgeside estate. Turn right into Booth Road, turn left along Park Road and left along Edgeside Lane.*

**19 153 Edgeside Lane.** Under various Housing Acts from 1919 to 1936 Rawtenstall Council built many houses entirely in local stone. The stone for nearly all Edgeside estate is Haslingden Flag quarried from Edgeside Quarry. Edgeside Lane was the last part of the estate to be built including number 153.

**20 123 Edgeside Lane.** Edgeside Quarry closed when it was considered there was enough stone to finish the estate. However, the stone supply was inadequate and the last 4 houses (121 – 127) were built with distinctly different, much coarser gritstone from the small quarry near Jack Lodge. *Retrace your route back to Waterfoot centre cross Bacup Road and from Waterfoot Bridge* look southwards over the River Irwell. The view is a complex of little bridges, ‘back-landings’ of Haslingden Flagstones and railings

and steps. The local nickname for this area is ‘**Little Venice**’. *Continue westwards along Bacup Road.*

**21 Horse and Bamboo (former Liberal Club) Bacup Road.** Dated 1896 this building has interesting pediments and features. The main courses are ‘pitch-faced’ Haslingden Flags and the dressings and stringcourses are gritstone.

**22 Kenyons Footwear, Myrtle Grove Mill, Bacup Road** This large mill complex has a 1890 dated keystone in gritstone over the door, referring to Richard Rostron, felt manufacturer. The ‘pitch-faced’ Haslingden flag is from Hurdles Quarry on the hill above the mill, and was allegedly delivered by aerial ropeway.

**23 Hareholme Primitive Methodist Chapel, Bacup Road - now ‘Coolers’** Built in 1873, it was planned and superintended by John Wilde of Oldham. The stonework is mostly ‘pitch-faced’ Haslingden Flag, with gritstone arching, door surrounds and

mouldings. The builder was Messrs George Parkinson and Sons, Newchurch, who had a quarry at ‘Park House’, Newchurch (possibly Edgeside Park Quarry).

**24 Cloughfold Conservative Club, 276 Bacup Road.** The main stonework is ‘pitch-faced’ Haslingden Flag sandstone with the dressings and window sills possibly sawn and smoothed. Stone source is Scout Bottom Quarry, Whitewell Bottom.

Neighbouring **Heys Street** was named after major quarry proprietor Mr Henry Heys, who owned the land and probably built the properties. *Take a short detour, turn right into North Road.*

**25 North Road (former) Wesleyan Methodist Chapel.**

Burnley architect William Waddington designed the chapel, dated 1874. The stone is Haslingden Flag, with gritstone smooth ashlar stringers and window arches. Mr. Walton of Horncliffe was contractor and builder, and as he owned Horncliffe Quarries, this is the probable stone source.

*Return to Bacup Road and continue.*

**26 St John's (City Shoes) 204 Bacup Road.**

Architects Paley, Austin and Paley designed the church in 1889-90. Stonework is recorded as coursed local stone, and the texture is punch faced in a 'snecked' arrangement (inserts of smaller stones). The dressings are recorded as York stone, but appear to be local gritstone in a smooth ashlar.

*Continue along the right hand side of Bacup Road passing three terraces with dated gable ends.*

These show progressive infill of workers' housing in the industrial heyday – Rose Vale Cottages 1875, Prosperity Cottages 1879, Green Bank 1880 – all built from 'pitch-faced' Haslingden Flag.

*After Rawtenstall Cricket ground turn right into Kay Street and left into Annie Street.*

**27 Warehouse in Annie Street, T.E. Mansergh's.**

Plans were drawn up for the warehouse in 1896 for Messrs Hutchinson Bros who worked the stone mines at Rake Head, Stacksteads, the probable source of the stone. The 'pitch-faced' stonework is blue-grey and looks like the hardest of any of the stone on the trail – the famed 'lonkey' stone, showing hardly any wear.

*Return to Kay Street, turn left and then left into Bank Street.*

**28 National Westminster Bank, 36 Bank Street, Rawtenstall.**

A striking corner edifice, built in 1868. The architects were Mills and Murgatroyd and contractors Messrs Moore Bros Ltd Rawtenstall. The base blocks are gritstone from Fletcher Bank Quarry on the Rossendale – Bury boundary (stone from here was used to repair Manchester Cathedral). The main decorative stone is York Stone, favoured by architects because it is easier to carve. Polished granite dressings and door surrounds are a very attractive pink colour from the Ross of Mull.

*Turn left down Bank Street and use the road crossing aiming at St Mary's Church. Go up the Church Pad by the side of the church.*

Go into Henry Street then first left into St. Mary's Place

**29** **10 St. Mary's Place.** The district's best urban set of the local style of flag fencing – using upright flagstones as land dividers and taking up as little space as possible.



2 ) The best urban set of flag fences

*Return down Church Pad*

A recently discovered document of 1877 by geologist J. Spencer states Rawtenstall's key early buildings were quarried from Millstone Grit

– actually Fletcher Bank Grit – at Holly Mount (currently at the back west end of Asda car park).

*This found at Holly Mount, is a considerable depth, was worked there from 1830 to 1845 – The Queen Hotel, the Church, the Parsonage, a number of buildings at New Hall Hey, a part of the house at Holly Mount, the mills belonging to Messrs Whitehead in Rawtenstall Fold were built out of this rock – The stone is excellent.*

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*go under the subway to the south side of Bury Road. Shortly past East Lancs Railway Station turn right into New Hall Hey Road. Continue over the level crossing to the local pla'ue*



3 ) High quality masonry from Horncliffe quarry

**30** **Hardman Business Centre (New Hall Hey Mill), New Hall Hey Road.**

This listed building of 1862 is the highest quality stone built mill for miles around. Serious fires had damaged previous mills on the site, and the owner Hardman was determined to have a fireproof mill, and employed top quality masons. Owd Williams was the architect and regarded it as one of his hardest jobs, as the foundations of the chimney are partly rafted on quicksand. The Haslingden Flag came from Horncliffe Quarry, Rawtenstall, and the contract specifications for the stone survived.

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For many relevant press cuttings and articles: the late John Davies and the late John B. Taylor. Grateful thanks are also due to John Simpson, Neil Caygill, Trish Kenny, Mike Rothwell and Steve Walker.

**Sources:** Borough of Bacup Minutes; Borough of Rawtenstall Minutes Ensum, J. Bacup Mill Trail pub. Rossendale Groundwork Trust c.1985 Hartwell, C. and Pevsner, N. The Buildings of England: Lancashire North 2009 Taylor, J.B. Stories in Stone: Datestones in Rossendale 1988



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