

THE SNOW STONE

PULE HILL, MARSDEN

A dramatic uphill walk through nineteenth century quarry workings with far reaching views.

TIME TAKEN 20 minutes each way.

DISTANCE 400 metres/0.25 miles each way.

ACCESS Up a steep hill. Children will need careful supervision in the quarry.

REFRESHMENTS AND TOILETS

There are a wide variety of cafés and pubs in Marsden, including The Carriage House Inn on the A62 at the foot of Pule Hill.

Toilets: Peel Street, Marsden – opposite the Information Centre.

GETTING THERE AND PARKING

Head out of Marsden on the A62 Manchester Road towards Oldham. After about 2 miles you will find a convenient layby on the left hand side of the road. (Map ref SE 029109.)

If you reach The Carriage House Inn, you've gone too far.

The Walk

Walk up the road to a five barred gate on your left. Go through this gate and up the track to a point just above the derelict building on your right. Now take a less well marked path on your right, under the telegraph poles, to join the obvious artificial slope (an old incline for removing stone from the quarry). Walk up to the top, where it arrives at a large pile of stone – the remains of the old winch housing.

Find footholds and scramble up this pile of stone. At the top turn right into the quarry.

Explore the whole of this wonderful space and you will find the **Snow Stone** towards the far end, carved into the rock face and the first **Stanza Stones Poetry Seat**, through a gap in the wall on your right.

The **Stanza Stones Poetry Seats** have been specially designed and built for the Trail as a place to sit and create your own poem, or rest and admire the view.

Return to the layby the way you came or you can explore the whole of Pule Hill and make your own way down.

About the Snow Stone

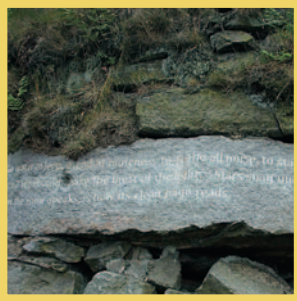
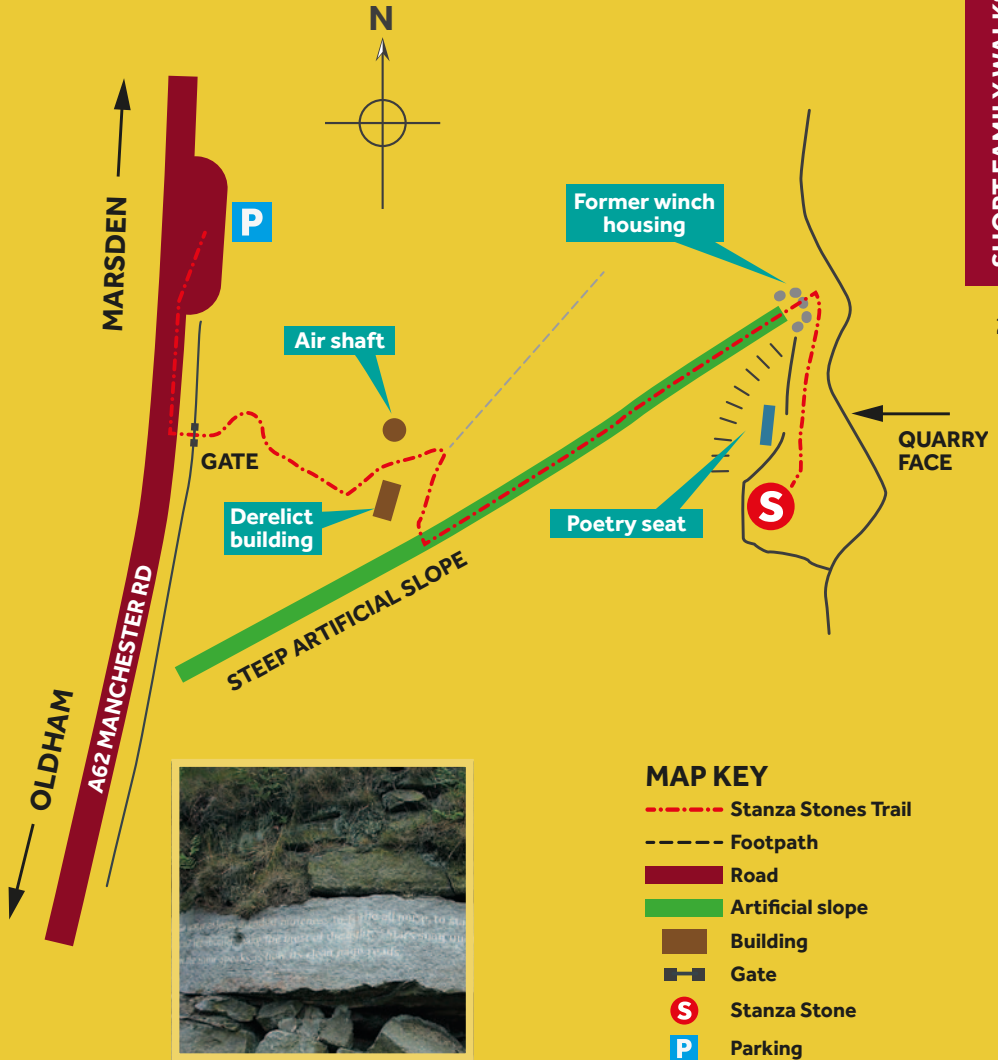
Simon Armitage grew up in Marsden and knows Pule Hill well. He's seen snow still lying in the quarry long after it has melted elsewhere.

While they were carving, Pip Hall and her apprentice Wayne were visited by a paraglider who'd spotted them from above and dropped in to see what was happening.

"This was the first site we chose and this pair of gritstone blocks were ideal because of their shape and sheltered position. Under the ferns and moss we found the space to arrange the original twenty-three lines of **SNOW** into just four. Carving into the weathered, industrial-grimed surface revealed honey-coloured stone – the colour all the rock would have been in quarrying days." **Pip Hall**

SNOW STONE WALK

800 METRES/0.5 MILES IN TOTAL



**Snow, snow, snow
is how the snow speaks
is how its clean page reads ...**