

BLACK ROCK: SITE LOCATION AND ACCESS

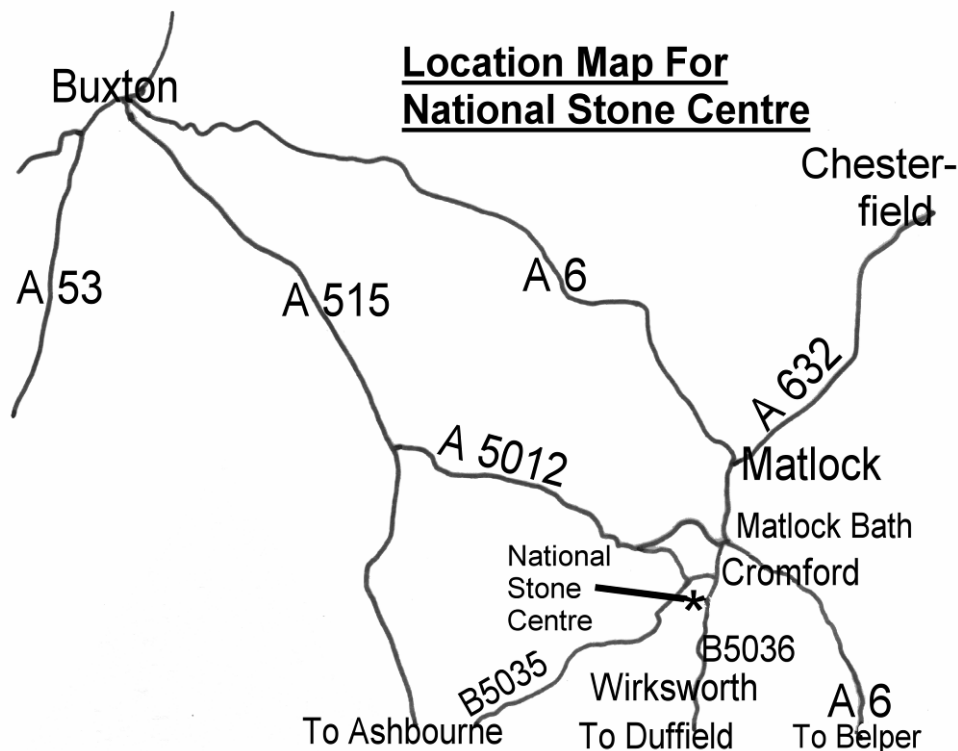


Figure 1. Location Map

SITE NAME: BLACK ROCK (Dene Quarry, National Stone Centre)

STATUS: Black Rock is a Regionally Important Geological & Geomorphological Site (UKRIGS site) part of which is a Derbyshire Wildlife Site (BSR WDH07/2). The Derbyshire Rangers manage the area which is on Forestry Commission Land.

The National Stone Centre is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

Dene Quarry is a working facility, viewed from the public viewpoint.

GRID REFERENCE: SK 294557

OS MAP: The White Peak. 1:25,000.

DIRECTIONS: The easiest parking is at The National Stone Centre. Access to the site, particularly for coaches, is best from CROMFORD. Group leaders may choose to have the party may be picked up at the end of the visit at the Steeple Grange Cemetery outside the Black Rock picnic area.

FROM THE NW take the A515 south east from BUXTON and turn left onto the A5012 for 14 kilometres to CROMFORD. Turn right onto the B5036 to Wirksworth for 1.5 kilometres, then turn right towards MIDDLETON. The signposted turn for the National Stone Centre is on the left.

FROM THE SW take the A515 North from ASHBOURNE and turn right onto the A5012 for 14 kilometres to CROMFORD. Turn right onto the B5036 to Wirksworth for 1.5 kilometres, then turn right towards MIDDLETON. The signposted turn for the National Stone Centre is on the left.

FROM THE SE take the A6 north from DERBY to Cromford. Turn left onto the B5036 to Wirksworth for 1.5 kilometres, then turn right towards MIDDLETON. The signposted turn for the National Stone Centre is on the left.

FROM THE NE take the A632 from CHESTERFIELD to MATLOCK, then turn left along the A6 to Cromford. Turn right onto the B5036 to Wirksworth for 1.5 kilometres, then turn right towards MIDDLETON. The signposted turn for the National Stone Centre is on the left.

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION: The National Stone Centre site covers 10.84 hectares of quarries in Carboniferous Limestone rocks. These rocks are very variable limestones, and contain many fossils. The area is protected as it has importance in the understanding of the varied reef environments that existed in Wirksworth about 340 million years ago. (See **figure 2**)

The area around Black Rock is one composed of three different rock types, all of Carboniferous age: limestone, shale and, the youngest, a cross-bedded, coarse grained pebbly sandstone named the Ashover Grit. The sandstone is down faulted into the shale and dips at around 10 degrees to the east south east. The underlying shales, which form the lower ground, are landslipped in the area around Black Rock although this is partially masked by waste from Godber Foundry Mine (now the Black Rock picnic site), and the woodland. Below the shales are limestones well exposed in Dene Quarry and the National Stone Centre.

Mineralisation of the area has emplaced lead ore and some zinc ore in the fractures in the rock, particularly the limestone, leading to a long history of metal mining. The mining spoil heaps by Black Rock are of note because the Gang Vein, a mineralised fault which trends roughly W-E across the area, produced galena (lead ore), some blende (zinc ore) and the waste minerals (called "gangue") of barite, fluorite, and calcite.

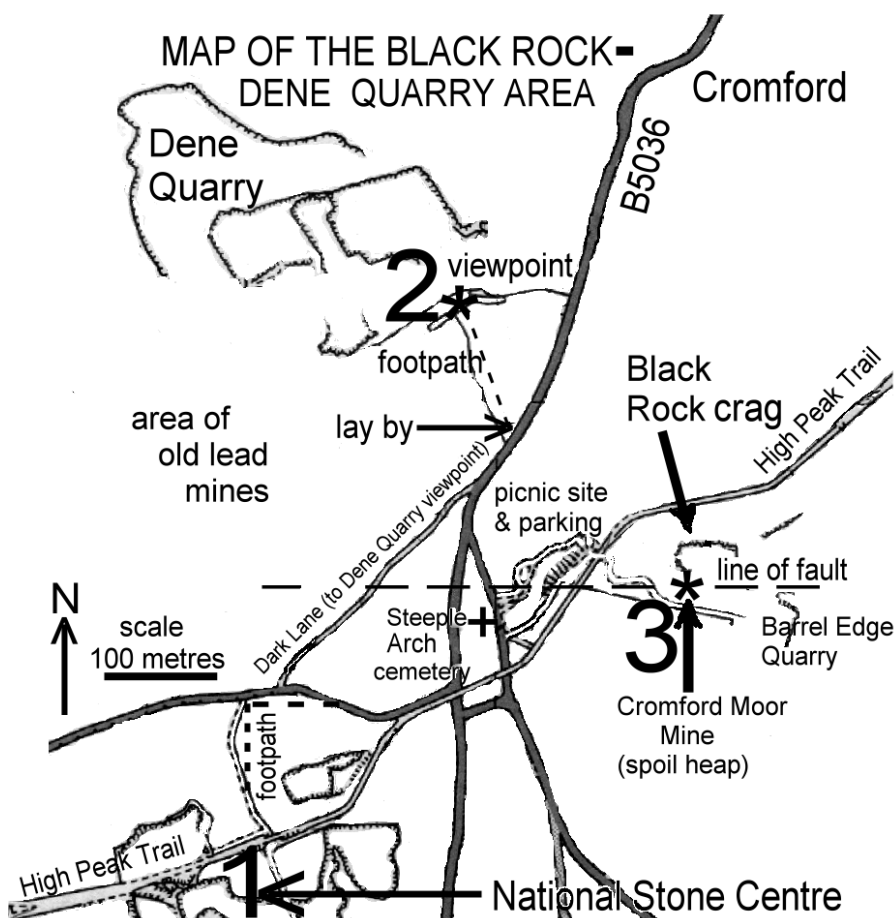
Both Black Rock and the National Stone Centre are protected sites and damage caused by collecting material is to be avoided.

INFORMATION: The National Stone Centre has its own opening hours
TELEPHONE: 01629 / 824833
www.nationalstonecentre.org.uk

WHEELCHAIR ACCESS: The National Stone Centre site has good wheelchair access, although not all of the paths are hard surfaced. The Dene Quarry viewpoint and Black Rock sites are not accessible by wheelchair

Each of the three sites (numbered on **figure 2**) are accessible all day everyday.

Figure 2 Map of the Dene Quarry – Black Rock Area



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INITIAL RISK ASSESSMENT:

All group leaders should meet with their parties prior to the *On-Site* visit and impress upon participants the educational nature of the event, and the need for extra consideration for the safety of themselves and others.

Each group should have a member of staff proficient in First Aid, and carry a mobile telephone for emergencies.

There is no substitute for group leaders viewing the site before the field visit and making their own risk assessment, according to the requirements of their own organisation. The following assessment is only a guide.

For further information on conducting a Risk assessment go to: The National Stone Centre website:
<http://www.nationalstonecentre.org.uk>

RISK (National Stone Centre)	ACTION
Pedestrian access under the bridge into the site is along a minor road used by some traffic	Warn pupils to be vigilant Set up an observer on the far side of the bridge to monitor traffic.
Pupils will be on recognised footpaths the whole time. These paths are gravel covered.	Warn pupils to be careful. Insist on sensible footwear and waterproof clothing
There are very high and steep old quarry faces	Warn pupils not to cross fence lines.
On the extreme west of the site is a deep quarry.	Keep pupils close to the described route and the National Stone Centre
Crossing the roads (especially the B5036)	These roads are deceptively busy. Take great care, especially with larger groups
RISK (Black Rock)	ACTION
The Cromford Moor Mine spoil heap is not particularly steep, but is composed of loose lumps of limestone, the access to Dene Quarry viewpoint is across a field that can be muddy.	All members of the party should have suitable footwear and water-proof clothing
The sandstone outcrop is easily climbed, but has a very steep drop on the northern side.	Discourage climbing