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MELDON VALLEY, DEVON: KS2 SITE LOCATION AND ACCESS

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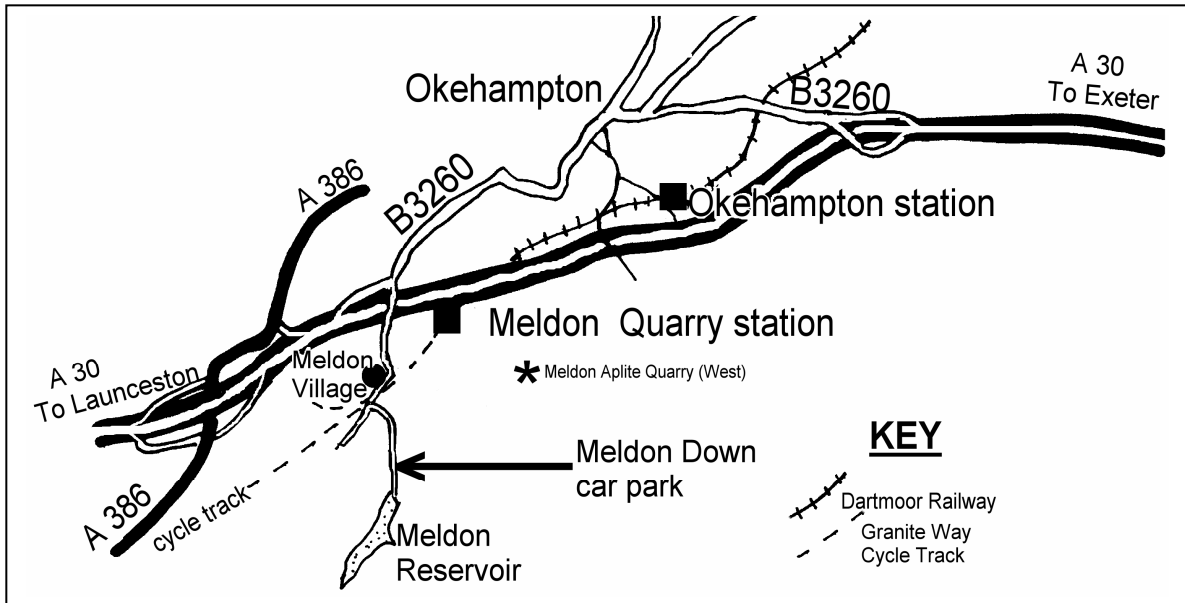


Figure 1. Access Map For The Meldon Valley, Devon.
(For a detailed map of the ESO-S sites see MAQ7 Figure 1).

SITE NAME: Meldon Aplite Quarry, (West)
GRID REFERENCE: SX 56609195

STATUS: Site of Special Scientific Interest.

There is footpath access to all parts of the area described in this ESO-S material, however, none of it is common land. Ownership of different parts of the area resides with Okehampton Hamlets, Meldon Quarry and the Duchy of Cornwall.

OS MAPS: 1:25,000 Explorer Series, Sheet 113 Okehampton.
1:10,000 SX 59 SE

BGS MAPS: 1:50,000 BGS Solid and Drift, Sheet 324

DIRECTIONS:

Access to the Meldon Reservoir car park is along minor roads, unsuitable for large coaches. Minibuses and short coaches, carefully driven, will be able to pass through the narrow village streets of Meldon and the sharp turn into the car park.

An alternative, and novel, way of reaching the area is to park at the Dartmoor Railway station at Okehampton, and travel by train to Meldon Quarry Station, joining the itinerary at the viaduct which is close by. Groups wanting to travel by coach may find this convenient. Trains tend to run during the period April to October, though changes to their published schedule can occur. **Telephone** 01837 55637 for details.

FROM THE WEST:

Join the A30 and proceed eastwards to the B3260 slip road which lies 1.5 kilometres east of the junction between the A30 and the A386. At the top of the slip road turn immediately right to the village of Meldon. Follow the road through the sharp right hand bend in the village and under the old railway bridge. Here turn sharp left (ahead is signposted a dead end). Continue for 0.5 kilometres to the car park on the left. **[NOTE:** On the OS map sheet 113 this car park is shown incorrectly in a position 150 metres further east].

FROM THE EAST:

Join the A30 which runs westwards from junction 31 of the M5. After passing Okehampton the road passes below the B3260. There is no west bound slip road here. Continue to the junction with the A386, 3 kilometres further west. Join the A386 going north for 1 kilometre and take the eastbound slip road back onto the A30. The B3260 slip road lies 1.5 kilometres to the east. At the top of the slip road turn immediately right to the village of Meldon. Follow the road through the sharp right hand bend in the village and under the old railway bridge. Here turn sharp left (ahead is signposted a dead end). Continue for 0.5 kilometres to the car park on the left. **[NOTE:** On the OS map sheet 113 this car park is shown incorrectly in a position 150 metres further east].

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To Okehampton Station:

From both west and east take the slip road from the A30 onto the B3260 and follow the signs to Okehampton. At the church turn south onto George Street, following the brown tourist signs to the railway station where there is ample space for parking coaches. The gates close at 17:30 each day. Trains run to Meldon Quarry Station which is 300 metres northeast of the viaduct section of the itinerary. Contact Dartmoor Railway for timetable details: **Telephone** 01837 55637.

PLANNING THE VISIT:

Group Leaders should be clear about their choice of parking location for their transport, and which of the suggested exercises and observations they want the party to use, and in which sequence. Please note there is **no** parking of any description at Meldon Quarry Station.

This itinerary has a maximum elevation of almost 300 metres at Meldon Reservoir car park, and there are very few places to shelter from bad weather. Group Leaders should obtain a current weather report on the day of the visit, and insist that all members of the party are properly clothed and wearing strong shoes or boots.

Apart from the toilet facilities at Meldon Reservoir car park there is no shop and no shelter other than the buffet car café at the NE end of the viaduct. This has strict opening and closing times that group leaders should check with Dartmoor Railway, especially if they intend to use the wide track up to the railway cafe, instead of the steeply stepped path from beneath the viaduct.

WHEELCHAIR ACCESS: Wheel chair access is not possible to most of these sites once away from the railway facilities.

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. Please remember that in some rural areas mobile phone signals can be very weak or non existent.

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 Local Authority. The following assessment is only a guide.

RISK	ACTION
Unpredictable changes in the weather, including high winds on the Meldon viaduct.	Wear suitable warm and waterproof clothing. Get weather reports for the day of the visit.
Rock faces over 3M in height.	Wear hard hats. Do not climb the faces.
Steep footpaths, slopes and screes.	Caution all party members to take care, especially in the wet, and insist on suitable footwear and sensible behaviour.
Streams and Meldon Pool, with steep, crumbling banks in places. The footbridge between Sites D & E is wide, but has no guardrails.	Stay well away from steep banks. Omit the stream study if the Red-a-ven brook is in spate. Supervise the group well when crossing the Red-a-ven footbridge, which has no handrail.
Narrow country roads with high walls and restricted parking space.	Drive carefully and with consideration. Use only the parking sites suggested in the <i>On-Site</i> guides. Alert group members to the danger of traffic when walking, or making observations along these small lanes.
Very large lorries use the road from the quarry to the main road	Supervise the crossing of this road very carefully. Split larger groups up if necessary.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION:

The rocks of the area are Lower Carboniferous bedded mudstones and cherts, believed to be turbidite deposits, which were folded and metamorphosed during plate tectonic activity and the intrusion of the Dartmoor granite, about 290 Ma. The Meldon (west) Aplite Quarry exposes the north western contact of a dyke which was intruded at a steep angle to the SE shortly after the intrusion of the main Dartmoor granite. The uneven contact with the country rock, shows intrusive veins of the main dyke material. Mineralisation associated with the granite emplaced minerals of copper, arsenic and tin.