

## **Interview with Trespassers**

**How often have you been to the quarry?**

Thousands of times, millions of times, too often.

**So how many times a week?**

Twice a week.

We used to go nearly every day.

**So what encouraged you to go?**

No one would tell you off when you were smashing everything up.

**Were you aware of the dangers?**

Yeah.

**Have you been injured or have you witnessed anyone being injured in the quarry?**

Yeah.

Yeah.

**Were they really serious injuries?**

I nearly died two times.

**Did you?**

I saved his life twice.

Yeah he saved my life twice.

**Were any actions taken against your entering, so were you punished or were you caught?**

We've been caught and they say next time we'll ring the police and the next time they just the same thing. We're all on motorbikes so they can't catch us really.

**So if there were more to do in this area would you stay out of the quarry?**

Yeah.

Yeah we could do with a skate park or something.

**Would you do it again?**

Yeah.

Yeah but now they've got people patrolling.

I'm going to go up tonight then.

**What did you do in the quarry?**

Swim.

We used to swim in the lagoons.

Swimming.

Riding our motorbikes.

Jumping off cliffs.

Jumping the gaps.

Yeah we used to jump over about 60 foot roof gaps.

**Did you know the dangers of swimming in the lagoons?**

There is none.

There is none apart from the rocks.

Apart from the time I nearly drowned because it was too cold. I got cramp and then he pulled me out.

**What did you do?**

I was laughing as I went under the water.

**What do you think would stop teenagers from going into quarries?**

Guard dogs.

Barbed wire.

If there was something else to do.

Razor wire.

**Do you think that would just get vandalised?**

It already has been, you just ride over the fences on your motorbikes.

**What do you think of safety provision in the quarry at the moment – I mean do you think there are a lot of signs and things?**

There are a lot of signs but they've all been smashed up.

They're all in tiny pieces.

**Do you think if signs were put up more often that would help?**

They'd just get ripped down.

**Do you think a lot of people are aware of the dangers?**

Yeah people are.

But it doesn't stop you.

Yeah but people like us have to go up there to get out of the way.

**Do you think if we promoted the unsafeness of the quarry people would decide not to go in any more or do you think they'd carry on doing it?**

It'd either stop people going in or make them go in more.

It would though wouldn't it. People telling you not to do something makes you want to do it.

**Is that part of the attraction?**

Yeah.

Plus the fact that there's hardly anyone there, it's your own space.

**So it's a place to go to get away from people?**

Yeah.

**Do you think it would help to stop people if there were like harsher consequences?**

Yeah if you got caught and you got proper done for it you're not going to go again are you?

**Would you listen to people our age promoting quarry safety or would you listen more if people were older?**

You listen more to your own age group.

**Why do you say that?**

I don't know - when adults tell you to do something you do the opposite. But when you listen to your mates and your age group you take more notice.

**So before you went into the quarry did you think about what you were doing?**

Just used to go in like you were going on a mission.

**Would you think about going in before going in again?**

Yeah because you'd have to think about how to get round the security guards.

Because we go on motorbikes we have to go up a special way.

There's about ten different ways into the quarry.

We know them all.

**Are they really easy to find?**

If you know where they are they're obvious.

Once you're in the quarry you can find really easy ways to get out if there are people chasing you.

We've been shot at.

**By police?**

Not by the police, just by people there.

**If you had the choice what would you do with the disused quarry, what would you do with it basically?**

Not leave it as it is.

Get a building just one.

Get a skate park and a motorcross track.

What else?

Big swimming pool.

We've already got one.

**If it was turned into something would you still use it?**

Yeah.

**You said you use it to get away from people, if there were adults there watching over it would you still go?**

Yeah.

**The people who run the quarry are particularly worried about the people who go swimming there so anything you can tell us about why you went and when you went would be really helpful.**

Just went I don't why.

Its like a big swimming pool.

The water heats up. After a couple of days in summer the water goes warm.

Its so blue you just want to jump in.

**Would it make a difference if the water was a different colour?**

Yeah.

**If the water was like dark brown because it had been dyed would you want to swim in it as much?**

Yeah.

No.

**Say if you didn't know it was dyed, would it put you off?**

Say it was a dead manky colour you wouldn't want to go in it.

But now we know it's dyed.

**What if the dye stuck on you?**

Then we'd sue for damages.

**Do you think it would make a difference if we got a new bigger pool in Wirksworth?**

No because there's no cliffs to jump off.

It's about being outside and it's sunny and it's like you've got your own place again.

People go swimming in big lakes in summer, because it's outside. When it's sunny you're chilling at the side of the water.

**Do you realise how deep it actually is?**

Yeah.

**But you still swim in it?**

Yeah.

I think its only really dangerous when its cold.

**What happened when you did get cramp?**

I started sinking. I was sinking and I couldn't move and I couldn't get back to the shore. So one of my mates jumped in and got me.

**Is like a large group that goes up or is it mostly just you?**

It used to be loads of people.

There are lots of different groups and each group can have a lot of people in it.

In summer when it's proper hot and everyone's off on holiday and such there's quite a few people.

**How long do you stay up there?**

We used to stay all day.

**When you went into the quarry what did you used to do in the buildings?**

We used to make fires in the buildings.

Climb up roofs.

Just run about in the buildings.

Climb up the sides of them and jump over from roof to roof.

We used to go up to the tallest conveyors and shake them.

Smashing up windows with stones.

We used to put all the windows through.

Kill frogs.

**Do you think the buildings were safe to be messing around in?**

No.

But we used to know every place in the quarry. We used to know which bits were safe and which bits weren't.

We didn't used jump on stuff. We'd test it out.

We used to hang on to railings like and then kick the boards so if it did go through you'd still hang on to the railings.

**What about people who didn't know which bits were safe?**

Yeah for them it would be dangerous.

Some of the drops are about 60 foot. We used to jump from the roof of one conveyor over a big gap about 60 foot up and land on a little gangway about 60 foot up.

**Have you ever been there with anyone who didn't know how dangerous it was?**

No.

**When did you first go up?**

About thirteen, fourteen. The older lads told us about it. We used to go up there playing tig. Those were the days.

**What was the conveyor like at the quarry?**

It was very high up but it was very easy to get into because you just climbed up the metal work on the outside and then you could just go through the whole hopper and get into the quarry that way. Because it was meant to be blocked off but there was a little gap that you could get through. So we just used to go through there and we used to get shouted at by farmers underneath.

**So the fact that the quarry is disused, would you go into it if it was used?**

Probably not.

We'd still go in it just not as much. You'd have to pick a day when they weren't working, be organised about that.

Because its disused you can just go up whenever you want, so you don't have to wait for the workers or anything. There's nothing really stopping you get in you can just walk in.

**If the quarry was used would you do different things in there or would you do the same things you do now?**

It would be better because there would be more stuff about. You could turn the machinery on and sit on the conveyor belt. You would pretty much do the same things, go through the buildings and climb up.

There's be more vandalism than anything. Because there'd be all the windows put in. There'd be more stuff to mess up.

**What could they do to make it more safe but you'd still want to use it?**

They couldn't.

They could cut a section off. And if they said we could go in a certain section of it we'd use that.

Yeah.

There'd be no buildings in it so it would be no good.

No good for you because you go in the buildings but for us with bikes it would be - there'd be no coppers about there'd be nothing to stop you.

**So if they took all the buildings out and made it safer would you still go up on your bikes?**

Still go up if you had a bike yeah.

I think they've started taking all the buildings down now anyway so we can't do those games any more anyway.

**If they put fish in the lagoons, would you go fishing?**

Yeah.

Yeah.

It would give us something to do.

**Would it put you off swimming in the lagoons?**

Yeah.

Yeah because the fish might bite you.

**Would you still find it as much fun as swimming – fishing?**

Yeah.

It wouldn't be as fun but it would be something to do.

It would be the next best thing.

It would be a laugh wouldn't it.

Well they're never going to turn it into a swimming pool really are they. You might as well go for the next best option.

**Say they got all these things organised like fishing and everything else and say you had to pay to do them would it put you off going?**

Depends on the price, if it reasonably priced its OK but if its stupidly priced then you wouldn't.

**So you wouldn't mind paying a bit because if people are going to spend this money its got to make some sort of profit?**

Yeah.

**What about if it was free to get in but you had to hire equipment, or would you want to bring your own?**

Yeah that would be better.