

Grade 1 walk - Quarries

Slate is a fine-grained metamorphic rock that is created by the alteration of shale or mudstone by low-grade regional metamorphism. Shales and mudstones in former sedimentary basins are compressed by horizontal forces with minor heating. These forces and heat modify the clay minerals in the shale and mudstone. Foliation develops at right angles to the compressive forces and usually crosses the bedding planes that existed in the shale.

Building stone in the Kingsbridge area is mostly Slate from local Quarries. The harder slate is found near areas of igneous intrusions. Torr Quarry contained Dolerite and there are outcrops of igneous rock south of Kingsbridge shown in the map below

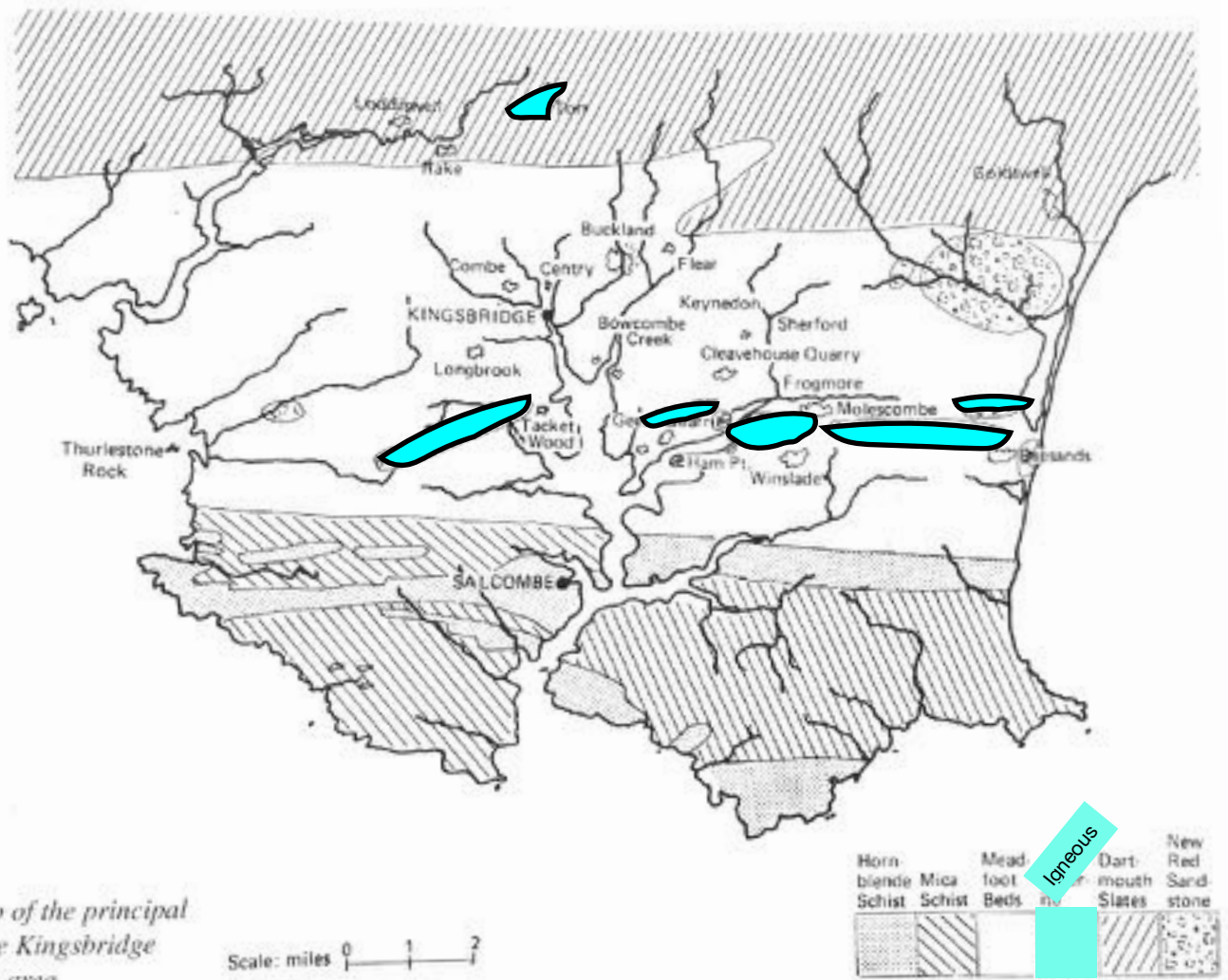


Figure 9. Map of the principal quarries of the Kingsbridge and Salcombe area.

Most farms had their 'farm pit' that supplied walling stone and some big houses were built from an on-site quarry.

Kingsbridge Church was built from stone from Bowcombe Quarry on the east side of New Bridge. The stone for High House came from the Quarry on the west of New bridge. There were quarries at Buckland, Flear, Centry.

At Coombe Farm there were sizeable workings that provided stone for the 16th Century Farm House and probably walls and houses in Kingsbridge.

***Walk along the Embankment, up the steps to the Leisure centre and around the edge of the Estuary to Tacket Wood, as far as the Quarry opposite Tacket Wood Grange.
The Intrepid might venture to the edge of Quarry***

Tacket Wood Quarry was in use well before at least 1796 and possibly provided a lot of the building stone for Kingsbridge - that lovely beige colour. Tacket Wood Grange housed the manager. Quote Abraham Hawkins (1818):

on the South West snore of the opening, at the foot of Tacket-wood quarry, is a neat thatched cottage, the property of Edmund Pollexfen **Bas-**tard, esq. M. P. but occupied by Mr. Henry Vincent, the tenant of the quarry, which produces large coarse slates and good stone for general purposes.

This 1812 painting shows the 'thatched cottage - now Tacket Wood Grange. The cottages and Tacket Wood House were built later- probably for Quarry workers and manager respectively.

At this time the estuary came up to the Lime Kiln and all the houses to the north of the quarry were build on the spoils from the Quarry.



Return by the same route

