

THE RAIN STONE

COW'S MOUTH QUARRY OFF THE A58 LITTLEBOROUGH TO RIPPONDEN

An easy, level walk along a gravelled track with wonderful scenery and rock climbers to watch.

TIME TAKEN 20 minutes each way.

DISTANCE 2 km/1.2 miles each way.

ACCESS Through a 'squeeze' stile designed to be accessible for buggies and wheelchair users, and along a level, gravelled track. The gravel is not loose. Access info: 01706 373421.

REFRESHMENTS AND TOILETS

The White House Pub (see below) serves food and is open all day. There is also a café and toilets at Hollingworth Country Park Visitor Centre OL15 0AQ, 15 minutes drive away.

GETTING THERE AND PARKING

Travelling between Littleborough and Ripponden on the A58 look out for The White House Pub. (OL15 0LG, Map ref SD 968178.) Park in the convenient car park on the downhill side of the pub.

The Walk

Walk up the road past the pub to a large gate on the left beside the reservoir dam.

Go through the metal 'squeeze' stile – signed *Pennine Way* – and take the gravelled track for about one mile.

Shortly before reaching a tall, imposing rock outcrop on your right, cross the drainage ditch running beside you by a narrow miniature bridge.

Continue on the far side up to the rocks to find **RAIN** carved into the rock face.

Wheelchair users won't be able to cross the bridge but you can get a good view of the carving from the main track at a range of about 20 metres.



Photo:
the site of the
Rain Stone.

About the Rain Stone

Simon has often been up here in a downpour and wrote **RAIN** with this exact spot in mind.

The old quarry is very popular with rock climbers so we identified the best place for the carving with the help of local climbers and the British Mountaineering Council. As it's the very bottom section of a climb, a local expert came out to show lettercarver Pip the 'hand and foot holds' so she could lay **RAIN** out round them.

"Look carefully as you approach Cow's Mouth Quarry and you'll find small areas of pure white gravel glittering on the inky peat – evidence of how hard these rocks are. These are quartz crystals – all that remains of earlier gritstone, eroded over millions of years.

This is the coarsest gritstone of all the Stanza Stones, and more than once the quartz crystals chipped my tungsten chisel." **Pip Hall**

RAIN STONE WALK

4KM/2.4 MILES IN TOTAL



Be glad
of these freshwater tears ...

