

Heritage Item 132

Staveley Langdown Lime Quarry



Location

Address:	Boyds Road, Staveley
Co-ordinates:	Northing 5728886 , Easting 2381800
Legal Description:	Sec 3 SO 18941
Owner:	Department of Conservation

Purpose

Current Use:	Remnant
Original/Past Uses:	Quarry

Heritage Significance and Category

Heritage Significance:	Historic
Heritage NZ:	Not registered
Ashburton DC:	Category A

Site Assessment

Assessed by:	Arlene Baird, Davie Lovell-Smith Ltd.
Date Assessed:	29 November 2014

Detail	
Description:	<p>This quarry was established in 1897 by William Langdown to supply lime for his 'pot' kiln (heritage item H17). When the lease was transferred in 1901 the new owners, The Springburn Lime, Cement, Coal and Building Stone Company Ltd., continued to use the quarry for the provision of lime up until 1902.</p> <p>The quarry has remained untouched since work ended there. Evidence still exists of how the quarrymen worked the fractured and softer deposits and avoided the harder deposits.</p>
History:	<p>The quarry is located approximately 100m east of the Langdown 'pot' kiln and was accessed by a tramway. Quarrying the limestone involved using explosives with the holes for the charges being made by two workers – one using a large hammer and the other holding a drill which he rotated a quarter of a turn after each hit. The limestone powder was then removed from the hole with a too before the charges were inserted.</p> <p>Once quarried the limestone was then transferred to the kiln via the tramway. In the kiln a layer of wood, usually manuka, was set at the bottom. Broken limestone and coal were then placed in alternate layers in the kilns until it was full. After the coal was ignited it took around a week of intense heat to burn the lime, the mixture was then allowed 48 hours to cool before being removed from the kiln by opening the hopper at the bottom and using iron shovels to dislodge the burnt lime.</p> <p>The burnt lime produced was used for agriculture. It may also have been used in the building industry for mortar, putty and whitewash.</p> <p>This quarry, along with the Langdown Pot Kiln (heritage item H18) that it served and the later Christchurch Lime Company kiln (heritage item H17) is an excellent historical example of an important industry in this region prior around the turn of the century.</p>
Notable Features:	Quarry; evidence of workers accessing softer deposits.
Condition:	The quarry has remained untouched since it ceased operation. It is now overgrown and unused.
Setting:	The land was quarried in this position due to the location of the pot kiln only 100m to the west. The setting is of high importance due to its relationship with the kiln and the limestone it provided to it via the tramway.

