

Earnslaw Lake Malvern Hills



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EARNSLAW HOUSE

The name "Earnslaw" refers to a house that once stood near to the quarry which was owned by Alfred Earnslaw. The house was built in 1875 and appears on the First Edition Ordnance Survey Plan of 1885 and by 1903, when a revised plan was published, a new driveway connecting Earnslaw House to the Wyche Road had been constructed. It is this driveway that has been restored to form the Easier Access Trail.

As you walk along the trail you will notice a number of features which date back to a garden built by Victoria Earnslaw including terraces which were once filled with ornamental planting and a number of non-native trees, such as Thuja. Earnslaw House was demolished in 1936.

THE QUARRY INDUSTRY

Records show that quarrying at Earnslaw started in 1836 and was one of many sites where high quality granite was extracted for building purposes. Not only did the quarrying leave scars on the sides of the hills but also resulted in considerable risks to safety. Earnslaw Quarry caused a land slip at the ridge of the hill on 30th October 1932 thus exposing the adjacent Conservators' land to the risk of serious subsidence. A fierce legal battle between the quarry operators and the Conservators ensued and eventually the Conservators won £500 for the damage to their land and £353 9s. 6d for the legal expenses and to enable them to protect their land in the future.

By the 1960's the quarry was largely worked out. Worcestershire County Council purchased the site and leased it to the Conservators who turned part of it into car parks and carried out work to improve the appearance of the rest. The pool that you can see today is one of the quarries that has filled with natural spring water and contains a number of fish.

GEOLOGY AND NATURE CONSERVATION

The quarry is cut in crystalline rocks, mostly granite and diorite, formed 670 million years ago, many kilometres down in the earth's crust. Since then earth movements have crushed the rocks creating extensive cracks called shears. About half way along the 60 metre high quarry face, a large rock fall has revealed an example of a shear, a smooth vertical face high on the quarry wall.

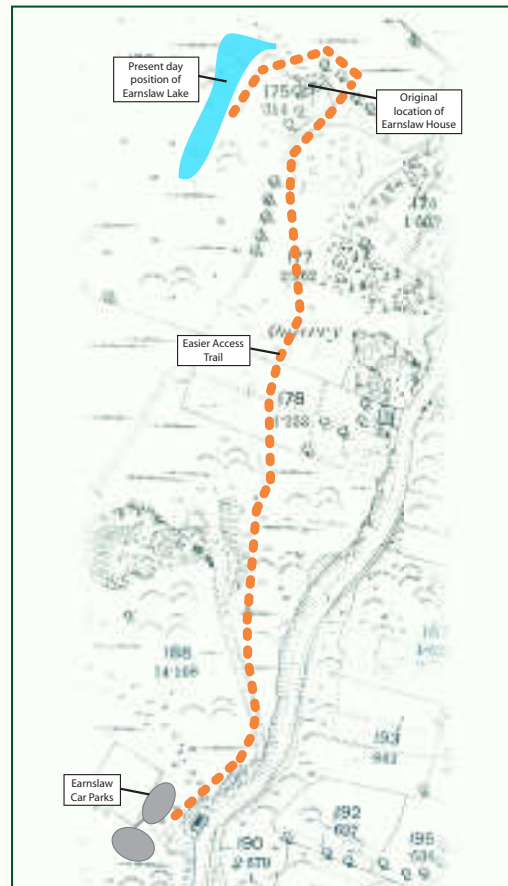
The water filled quarry now forms part of the Malvern Hills Site of Special Scientific Interest which is an area of special interest designated by reason of its flora, fauna, geological or physiographical interest with the aim being to protect valuable habitats.



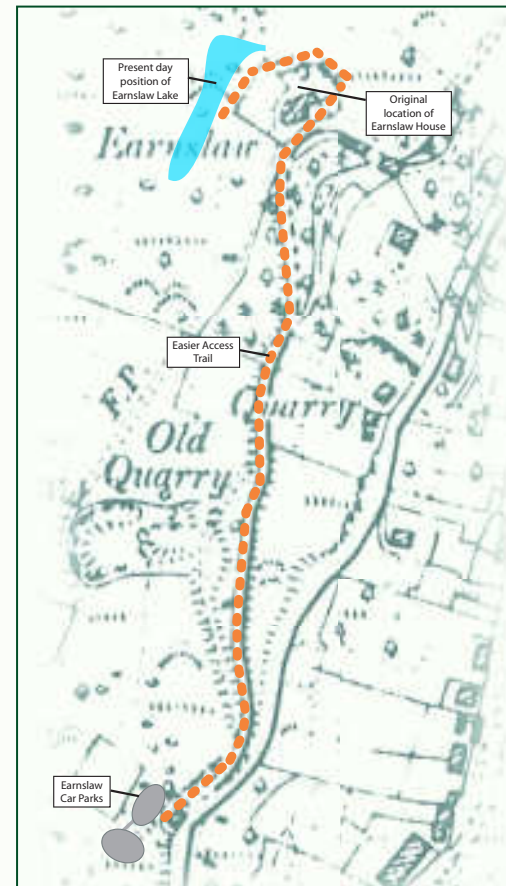
Earnslaw House c.1929, view from the North



Earnslaw House c.1929, view from the South



Extract from the 25 inch 1886 First Edition Ordnance Survey



Extract from the 6 inch revised edition 1903 Ordnance Survey Plan

PUBLIC USE AND SAFETY

Earnslaw Quarry provides an attractive place for quiet recreation and fishing is not permitted due to its nature conservation value and its use by those who come to use the Easier Access Trail. Members of public must keep to the path around the pool at all times. Swimming and climbing are not permitted in this area as they are both unsafe activities in this disused quarry.

