

THE WELSH INCLINE

You are at the bottom of a **GRAVITY BALANCED INCLINE** – an ingenious system used to shift stone cheaply and easily down the steep slope from the quarries to the limeworks.

Men unhitched trucks slightly lower down a gentle gradient along the 'gutter' – a tramway leading to a tunnel under the road and from there to the limeworks. 'Empties' would be making the return journey.

Higher up the incline you can see physical evidence of all this activity.



Stone sleepers – the holes were for pegs to fix an iron 'shoe' which held the rails in place.



Grooves worn into stone where rope, and later iron cable, rubbed as trucks went up and down.



The original rails were cast iron with a cross section of an upside-down T – they had a tendency to break near the join. The truck wheels had a flange on each side.



A similar tramway in Derbyshire showing the longitudinal lay out of the stone sleepers.

