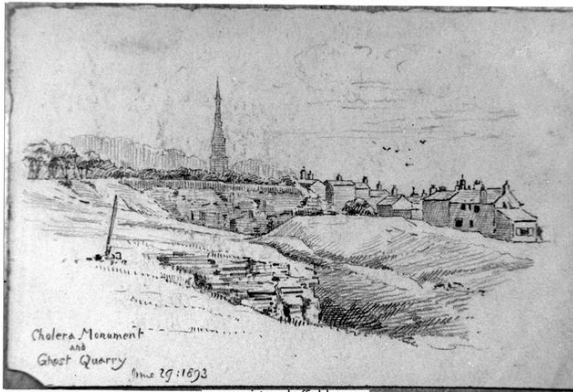


Shrewsbury Almshouses ("Hospital"), Norfolk Road, S2

The main block of almshouses and the central chapel were built in 1825, using sandstone from the Silkstone Rock. This was worked from Claywood Quarry, only 200m away, across the road. A tiny remnant of the quarry face may still be seen in the scrub, just below the Cholera Monument.



The Cholera Monument and quarry in 1893
S02261 www.picturesheffield.com



The Cholera Monument and site of quarry (in copse) from a similar viewpoint in 2015

The roofing is of a rather thick slate, probably from Westmorland, which could have been transported by canal, since the almshouses predate the railways. 10 more almshouses were added to the East in 1930, and two further groups of pentagonal almshouses & a meeting hall in 1976, built to blend in with the earlier buildings.

Looking carefully at the chapel, and another building nearer the road, shows a subtle difference in the stonework. The frontages have been re-faced in a uniform buff sandstone, which contrasts with the rougher, more weathered surface of the sides of the buildings. The individual almshouses have also been re-faced. This was carried out in the 1990s using 38mm thick slabs of Stoke Hall Sandstone, from the quarry near Grindleford.

The paving, gutters and kerbs demonstrate the use of traditional Sheffield gritstone, rather coarser than the local sandstone, and probably derived from rocks of Namurian age, to the west of the city.



The chapel showing the junction between older and newer stonework



Weathering on an original stone pillar of Silkstone Rock on Norfolk Road



Gritstone kerbs and setts



Gritstone gutter and setts



Facing stone of medium-grained
Stoke Hall Sandstone

NB. The grounds are private property and should not be entered without permission. However, the features may all be seen from Norfolk Road.

References:

Pevsner Architectural Guides: Sheffield. 2004. Harman, R. and Minnis, J. Yale University Press, p214,

Hunt, R. 1860. Mineral Statistics of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland (part II for 1858). Memoirs of the Geological Survey of Great Britain and of the Museum of Practical Geology. HMSO.

Facing stone – Andrew Shepherd, Architect.

Sketch of Cholera Monument and Quarry from Sheffield Archives and Local Studies Library.

Peter Kennett, v1, June 2015 © Sheffield Area Geology Trust