

ANNERY LIMEKILN AND OTHERS

The limestone loads intended for Annery Kiln itself, were dropped

at high tide directly into the river at the foot of the ramp. They were then barrowed and carted up to the top of the kiln as the tide dropped. There were also creeks with moorings on either side of the Lime Kiln ramp.

The Halfpenny Bridge construction in 1835 destroyed the upriver creek but the downriver one still existed on the 1840 tithe map. The evidence of the opening is now just discernible in the river bank. The Lime Kiln is one of the largest in the area.

The existing structure has three burning pots but there is clear evidence that it was originally only a single pot which has been considerably extended. The styles of the older part of Annery Kiln and its extension, are quite different. The older part has three arched lobbies with sharp-pointed curves, whereas the newer ones are more rounded and have only two lobbies to each pot. The newer 'front' (the east elevation facing the village road) of the kiln shows masonry features which are purely decorative.

The recent removal of heavy and invasive growths of ivy has revealed blank arches at either end of this face, as well as two quatrefoils. The top of the Kiln was surrounded by a high wall, also decoratively finished in a crenellated style.

The three limekiln pots would probably have been fired in rotation to ensure continuous supplies of lime.

The lintels of the draw-holes where the

grates are, can still be seen at the base of

the lobbies at the foot of the Kiln, so obviously the ground level has risen with the deposition of earth and rubble. There are also 'poking-holes' about a metre above the grates.

The larger arches or tunnels would have been used for loading the highly caustic burnt lime on to horsedrawn wagons or pack-horses, under shelter from the elements. Wetting the lime could have caused spontaneous combustion!

ANNERY KILN COTTAGES.

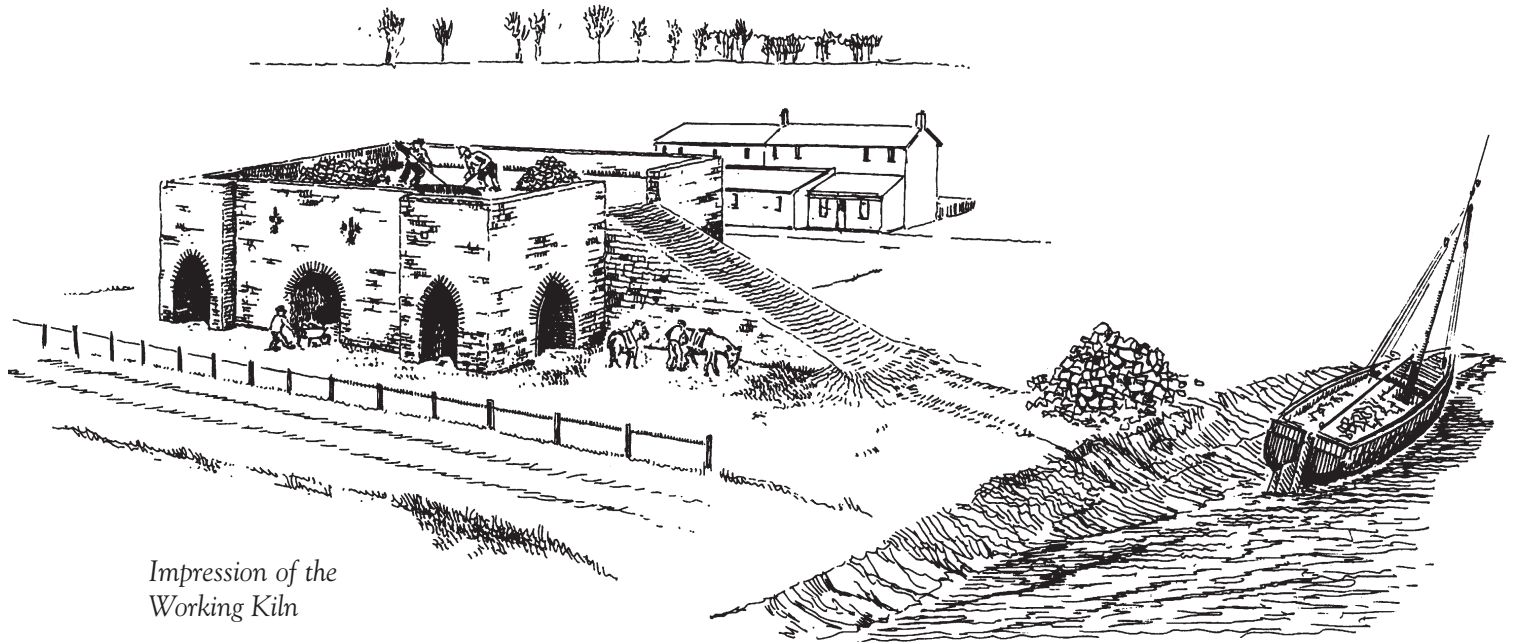
The oldest dwellings are the cottages across the road from the Limekiln. They and their gardens appear in plans drawn up for the proposed canal in 1826. The position of the 3-storey terrace (Nos. 1 to 5) facing the road (which although an unusual structure for North Devon, is similar to the terrace at East Yarde where there was a coal depot), and the cottages (Nos. 6 and 7) fronting the canal towpath, appear on the 'Tithe map of Annery Kiln Houses, Kilns and Yards' surveyed by Charles Cooper in 1840. The area by the Limekiln is described within the Tithe map as Lime Kilns, Stores and Dwellings.

The following advertisements appeared in the Bideford Weekly Gazette in 1859 and 1860:

"to be let, for a term of 3, 5 or 7 years, the well accustomed Lime Kilns & Coal Cellar. Situate on the Torridge river at

The three good cottages referred to are thought to be the present Nos. 6 and 7. No. 6 had a loft-door with a remains of a hoist (the corn loft), and an extra-wide ground-floor door in its gable end. In No. 7, evidence of another staircase and front door, indicating that it was once two separate dwellings, thus making all three to have been originally one-up, one-down cottages.

The occupations of the residents of Annery Kiln in the Monkleigh 1851 Census, include lime-burners, a bargeman, a shipbuilder's apprentice, a blacksmith, agricultural labourers, a retired farmer, glovers, nurses, scholars, paupers and a blind Chelsea Pensioner!



Impression of the Working Kiln



Annery Lime Kiln 2001