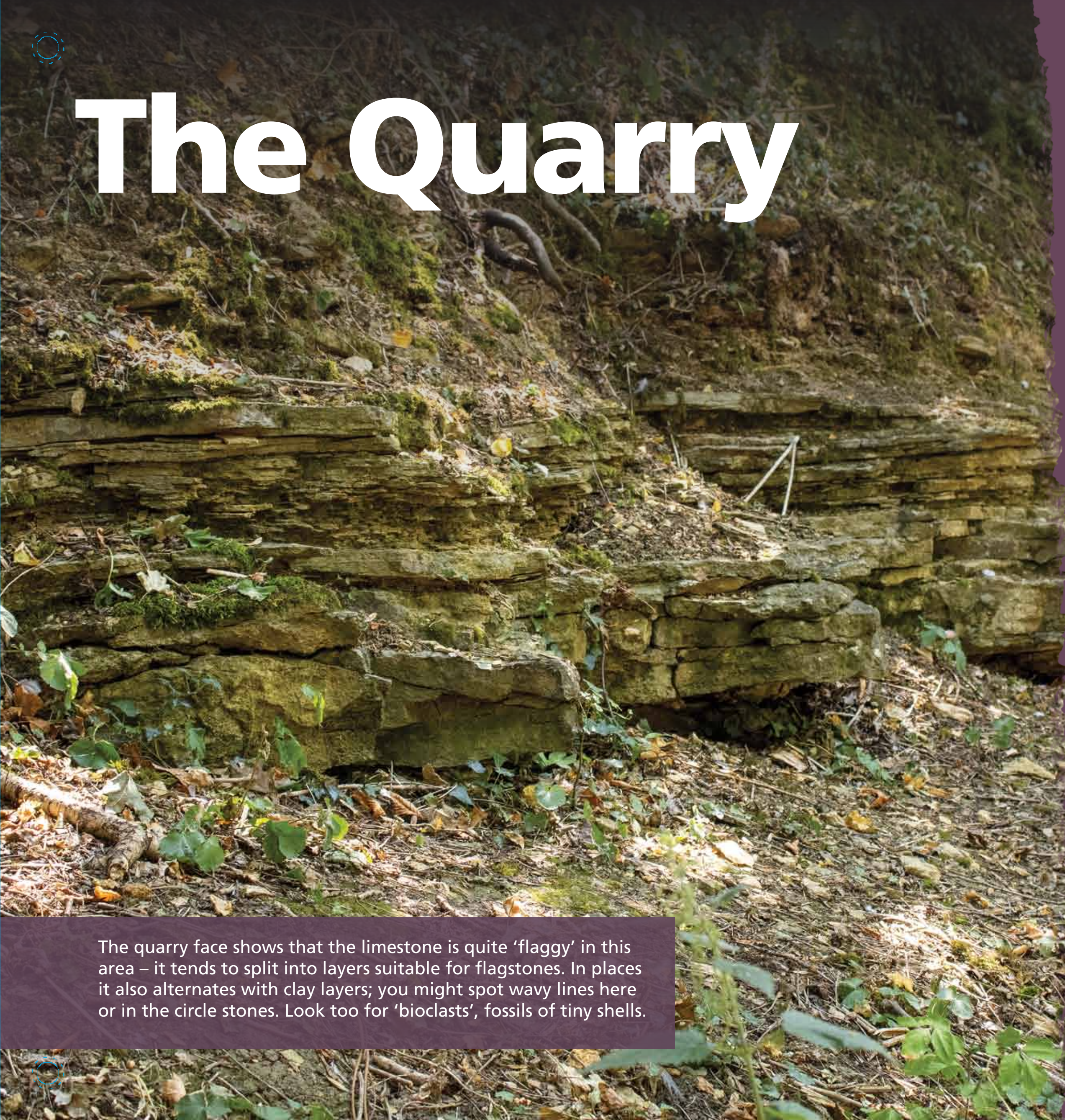


# The Quarry



The quarry face shows that the limestone is quite 'flaggy' in this area – it tends to split into layers suitable for flagstones. In places it also alternates with clay layers; you might spot wavy lines here or in the circle stones. Look too for 'bioclasts', fossils of tiny shells.

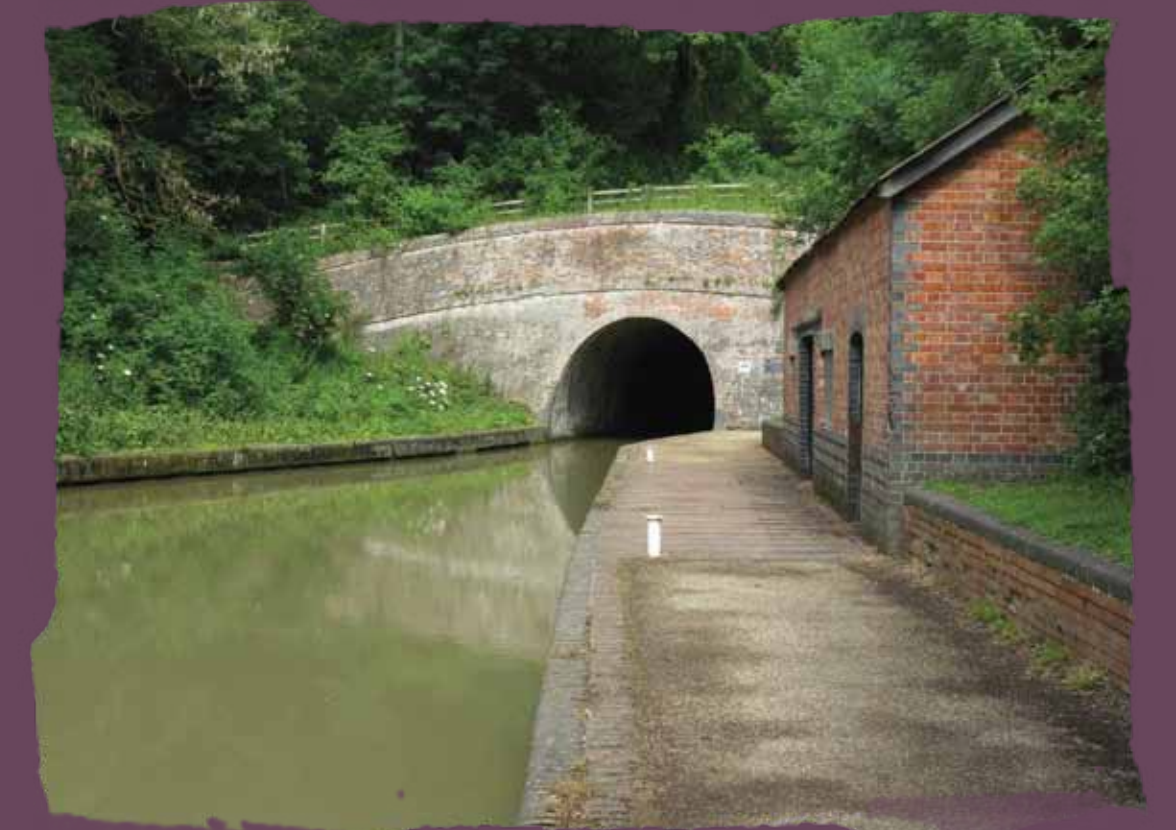
## What Lies Beneath

The secret to Great Linford Manor Park's special landscape lies in an ancient quarry, hidden away in these trees. Where Milton Keynes was mostly built over thick clay soil, Great Linford sits on a rocky outcrop of Blisworth Limestone.

## Building Great Linford

The availability of stone for building will have attracted the first settlers to the area. Local stones were used in the church, and in the Manor's twin Pavilions and Barn (later the Arts Centre). The stone circle stones were likely cut during the building of the canal; they were arranged into a circle in the 1960s.

The quarry face reveals rock laid down over 160 million years ago, when this area was a shallow tropical sea – like the Bahamas today. Ground water percolates through the layers of stone to appear as springs around Great Linford village.



The rock itself was named after the Blisworth tunnel, dug nearby for the Grand Union Canal, which is the first time this thin layer of attractive stone was studied.

