

# Cumbria RIGS Group

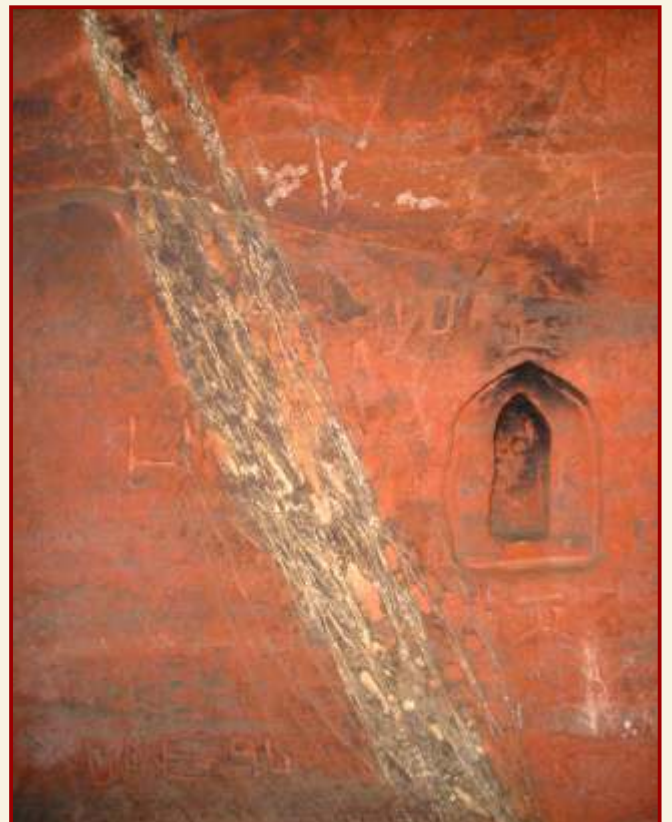
Cumbria RIGS Group is a voluntary geological conservation group working to record and look after important geological sites.



## LACY'S CAVES RIGS



Lacy's Caves were named after Samuel Lacy who owned Salkeld Hall in the eighteenth century who had the caves excavated as a folly. These cliffs in the Penrith Sandstone are composed of a very soft sandstone and the caves consist of five rooms above a steep drop to the river. The important feature here is the intense network of highly inclined veins of secondary silica in which the sand grains are bleached.

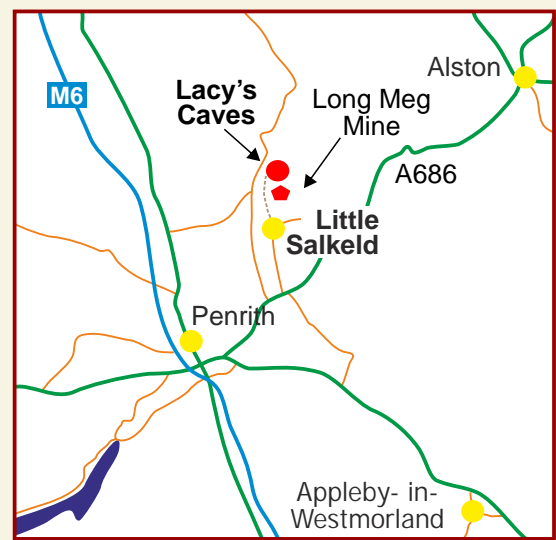




**A disused rail siding at Long Meg Gypsum Mine**

The mine is 1 mile north of Little Salkeld and a half mile before you reach Lacy's Caves. Gypsum (hydrated calcium sulphate) has been mined Long Meg for over 150 years. The gypsum is ground to a powder and heated to evaporate water. Heating to approximately 160°C drives off a limited amount of water and Plaster of Paris is produced. The most important use of this type of gypsum is in the production of plaster and plasterboard. Heating to above 200°C drives off all the water to produce the anhydrite which is used in the production of Portland Cement.

Inside Lacy's Caves. Note the white silica veins throughout the cave.



To get to Lacy's Caves take the road northwards off the A686 at Langwathby, Little Salkeld is two miles further on. Park in the village and take the unclassified road to the WNW. Follow this road for 1½ miles. At Long Meg Mine the track ends and a path continues to Lacy's Caves on the east bank of the River Eden.

