



*Photo 3 (above) shows 'Gertrude' in retirement after the quarries closed. She was stored at Neville's Garage, Chipping Norton, in the early 1960s and was later privately preserved.*

A twenty-ton steam navy, or excavator, was purchased from Ruston Proctor in 1915, but was not an unqualified success due to the amount of rubbish taken up when loading.

As a result of this, hand-loading was introduced; this must have been a back-breaking experience, which involved removing the overburden or earth and then removing the stone with a pickaxe and chisel and finally loading the stone into the adjacent railway wagons (Photo 4).