

BOSLEY CLOUD

The summit of Cloud was used in the construction of the Bosley locks and North Rode's "Twenty Arches" railway viaduct. A wide groove was scored in the hillside by the rock-carrying aerial rope-way cradles as they were lowered down from the Giant's Foot to where the viaduct was built a mile away. This was in 1849, when the Macclesfield - Congleton section of the North Staffordshire Railway was completed. Cloud stone was used for the frieze, cornice, parapet, river piers and for facing the abutments. A contemporary account gives the figures of one million bricks and 400,000 cubic feet of stone. The cost, if it should mean anything nowadays, was £54,000.