

Addingham Edge Millstone Quarry

STATUS: Local Geological Site

OTHER DESIGNATIONS:

COUNTY: West Yorkshire

DISTRICT: Bradford

OS GRID REF. SE 074 472

OS SHEET 1:50,000 Landranger 104 Leeds and Bradford

OS SHEET: 1:25,000 Explorer 297 Lower Wharfedale and Washburn Valley

BGS 1:50,000 Geological Sheet 69 Bradford (Solid and Drift edition)

FIRST DESIGNATED by West Yorkshire RIGS Group in 1996

DATE OF MOST RECENT SURVEY West Yorkshire Geology Trust in January 2009

SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION produced by Neil Aitkenhead

DESIGNATION SHEET UPDATED August 2009



SITE DESCRIPTION:

The Addingham Edge Grit, of Namurian age, crops out on Addingham High Moor as a craggy escarpment along the 350m contour line between Nab End and the outskirts of Ilkley. The millstone quarry, known as 'Millstone Lumps' (SE 072 472) contains exposures of cross bedded, coarse gritstones with pebble bands and impressions of large plant stems. The slopes below the quarries include several mapped post-glacial landslips. There are also numerous scattered blocks of Addingham Edge Grit, up to several metres in length and height, some of which have been fashioned into millstones in various stages of completion. These blocks also show various types of cross bedding and fossil plant remains.

There is a photo of the site looking from the slope below, featuring a millstone, in the Sheet Description 2000 Plate 1 p40 (see details below).

HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS:

The exposure has been quarried for millstones since the seventeenth century and possibly from much earlier times, as Iron Age querns have been found in the fields below the escarpment.

EDUCATIONAL VALUE:

The site is suitable for observing sandstone structures, quarrying of millstones and to observe the general geology of the district.

AESTHETIC CHARACTERISTICS:

It is an ideal viewpoint to observe the geological features of Wharfedale and the Skipton anticline to the north with the Askrigg Block beyond.

ACCESS AND SAFETY:

Good parking on Light Bank Lane (SE 061 470) or ascend from Addingham Moorside which has limited parking facilities. The site is approximately 1km from either parking site using public footpaths. These are not suitable for wheelchairs.