

Baildon Moor

STATUS: Local Geological Site
OTHER DESIGNATIONS: Local Wildlife Site
COUNTY: West Yorkshire
DISTRICT: Bradford
OS GRID REF. SE 142 401 (Trig point)
OS SHEET 1:50,000 Landranger 104 Leeds and Bradford
OS SHEET: 1:25,000 Explorer 288 – Bradford and Huddersfield
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 January 2009 by West Yorkshire Geology Trust
DESIGNATION SHEET UPDATED March 2011



SITE DESCRIPTION:

Baildon Moor is a faulted outlier of Lower Coal Measures strata. Exposures of 80 Yard Rock, which forms the summit of Baildon Moor, and 48 Yard Rock, which forms the main platform, are difficult to find. To the north of Baildon Hill, Namurian Rough Rock is faulted down along several NW-SE trending faults. At SE 153 405 there is a Rough Rock quarry near Hawksworth Road which exposes the junction between the Rough Rock and the Rough Rock Flags. Eaves Crag Quarry at SE 149 405 also exposes Rough Rock and there are crags of Rough Rock at the east end of the RIGS Mudstones and siltstones below the 48 Yard Rock can be seen in a few gullies. At SE 137 397 above Crook Farm, old coal pit spoil heaps contain numerous marine fossils, including *Gastrioceras*, *Dunbarella* and *Lingula*

The site contains many geological and archaeological features, including fossil sites, ganister rich in plant fossils and medieval bell pits where the Hard Bed and Soft Bed coals were mined.

Evidence of quarrying for stone can be found in abandoned workings, where rock was split along micaceous partings to produce flagstones.

HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS:

The earliest known documentary evidence of coal digging on Baildon Moor is 1387. In medieval times Baildon Moor contained ironstone pits and bloomery sites. Evidence of early bloomeries have been found at Glovershaw (junction of Glovershaw Beck and Lode Pit Beck) where nodules were being mined along the beck below the Rough Rock Flags, and there was said to be some evidence of iron working just above Hope Farm.

There are bell pits where the Hard Bed and Soft Bed coals were mined and in addition a number of deeper shafts were sunk on the moor. The last three to be worked (around the middle of the 19th C) were at Lobley Gate (the last one to close); Dobrudden Flats - called 'The Old Pit'; and Brantcliffe. These three were worked by William Midgeley and his partners Tomlinson & Beck and then by Midgeley alone.

Evidence of smelting can be found on Baildon Hill at SE 140 402 where the remains of the waste from the Dobrudden Flats "Old Mine" can be seen. This mine was very close to the mound and also had at least one small mine house and an engine house. Either in

the late 19th C or very early 20th C, the waste was fired in an attempt to produce road mending material. This explains the "reddened shale" which, if examined closely, can easily be ascertained to be the result of having been burned "in-situ" rather than being smelt waste placed on a heap.

In Green and Russell (1878) p553 there is an interesting account of the faulting and the mining history on Baildon Moor. The thick clay which underlies the Hard Coal is worked on the western side of the hill for making tiles and chimney pots.

EDUCATIONAL VALUE:

This is an excellent educational area as the geology can be clearly seen in the landscapes of Baildon Moor. There is also a long history of exploitation of sandstone and coal on the moor.

AESTHETIC CHARACTERISTICS:

There are excellent views in all directions from Baildon Moor, to the south across the Upper Carboniferous Coal Measures to the Millstone Grit of the Pennines and to the north into the Lower Carboniferous rocks of the Yorkshire Dales.

ACCESS AND SAFETY

There are numerous car parks surrounding Baildon Moor. However, by parking near Bracken Hall Countryside Centre, Shipley Glen and Baildon Moor may be visited during a 4km excursion on foot.