

Dimples Quarry, Haworth



STATUS: Local Geological Site

OTHER DESIGNATIONS: Local Wildlife Site

COUNTY: West Yorkshire

DISTRICT: Bradford

OS GRID REF. SE 025 369

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

OS SHEET: 1:25,000 OL 21 South Pennines

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

FIRST DESIGNATED by West Yorkshire RIGS Group in 1996

DATE OF MOST RECENT SURVEY July 2010 by West Yorkshire Geology Trust

SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION produced by Neil Aitkenhead

DESIGNATION SHEET UPDATED August 2010

SITE DESCRIPTION:

A gently dipping section of Upper Carboniferous High Moor Sandstone with siltstones and mudstones is exposed in a 5m high disused quarry face. The sandstones contain well-preserved *Stigmara* and other plant fossils. The mudstones include a thin coal seam (the Morton Banks Coal) and a grey fireclay beneath it, which are usually covered by mudstone scree. They lie on top of a thick sandstone bed (probably the Doubler Stones Sandstone) which was the main sandstone exploited in the quarry. A 3m high sandstone face on the north side of the quarry has evidence of minor faulting. Some quarried stones have been left at the top of the quarry on the north side and these have some interesting features, including many plant fossils.

The quarry has been largely infilled, but there is a marshy pool which is of ecological importance.

HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS:

The Bradford and Skipton Memoir (1953) p150 mentions that the top grit of the group in Dimples quarry was quarried for ashlar building stones and for pitching (roadstone).

EDUCATIONAL VALUE:

This is an excellent educational site, as it contains a range of sedimentary rocks including a thin coal. It is suitable for demonstrating dip measurements, sedimentary structures and differential weathering. Plant fossils can be found at this site and in surrounding tips of quarried stone. The nearby quarry at West End (SE 020 364) can be visited to observe trough cross bedded sandstones. On the north side of the site there is a slickensided sandstone face, which indicates minor faulting.

AESTHETIC CHARACTERISTICS:

The site is located within Penistone Hill Country Park, within walking distance of Stanbury and Haworth. There are panoramic views across moorland towards the north and west.

ACCESS AND SAFETY:

The site has very good access, with a car park in the quarry off Dimples Lane. The main face is easy to see from a wheelchair, but it is not possible to get close to any of the rocks, because of the scree slopes and trees below the faces.