

Ponden Clough, Haworth

STATUS: Local Geological Site

OTHER DESIGNATIONS:

COUNTY: West Yorkshire

DISTRICT: Bradford

OS GRID REF SD 987 367 to 980 364

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

OS SHEET: 1:25,000 Outdoor Leisure 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 West Yorkshire Geology Trust in February 2009

SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION produced by Neil Aitkenhead

DESIGNATION SHEET UPDATED August 2012



SITE DESCRIPTION:

The designated area is a small site covering the two cloughs above Ponden reservoir. The streams have cut into a series of Upper Carboniferous mudstones, siltstones and sandstones which show many features which indicate the environment in which the rocks were deposited. The steep sandstone cliff of Ponden Kirk shows Scotland Flags and Midgeley Grit. In the stream beds is an exposure of Keighley Bluestone amongst mudstones and siltstones.

HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS:

Contains marine bands used for zoning by Bisat and Hudson. The Keighley Bluestone was much used for road stone in previous times and quarried extensively in the Ponden area. Green and Russell (1878) recorded that there is a band of hard, blue, closely grained rock in the Keighley area, used for road metal and known locally as the 'Blues'.

EDUCATIONAL VALUE:

Suitable for secondary and higher level students wishing to study Namurian sedimentation and the identification of fossilised flora and fauna. Ponden Clough is unwooded allowing the geomorphological processes of the locality to be seen. The varied rock succession in this section represents repeated cycles of palaeoenvironmental change from marine flooding, marking a rise in sea level, then gradual encroachment of river delta deposits, followed by river abandonment and soil development.

AESTHETIC CHARACTERISTICS:

There are extensive views over moorland and unspoilt countryside. The area has strong connections with the Bronte Sisters especially at Top Withins and Ponden Hall.

ACCESS AND SAFETY:

The site can be reached by a 2km moorland walk via Lower Slack. Alternatively the lower sections can be reached along the track via Upper Ponden. Walking boots and waterproof clothing are essential. Plenty of parking is available alongside Ponden Reservoir (SD 9920 3695). However, the stream beds are rocky and the slopes above are very steep.