

Royds Hall Beck, Wyke



STATUS: Local Geological Site

OTHER DESIGNATIONS: Local Wildlife Site

COUNTY: West Yorkshire

DISTRICT: Bradford

OS GRID REF. SE 143 272

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 77 Huddersfield (Solid and Drift Edition)

FIRST DESIGNATED by West Yorkshire RIGS Group in 1996

DATE OF MOST RECENT SURVEY February 2009 by West Yorkshire Geology Trust

DESIGNATION SHEET UPDATED August 2009

SITE DESCRIPTION

An Upper Carboniferous Coal Measures cyclothem is exposed in the deeply eroded valley containing Royds Hall Beck. A sequence of shale, sandstone and thin coal (Black Bed Coal) are exposed in the west bank of the valley. Also within the exposure are many ironstone nodules. A waterfall has formed where more resistant sandstones of the Clifton Rock overlay softer rock. The waterfall can be seen to have cut back upstream to the north, forming a small gorge.

HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS:

In Victorian times the site was landscaped and planted with beech trees. Coal was mined for many centuries on this site and in nearby pits. To the north of the site in Hanna Wood, the remains of bell pits can be found. The Low Wood Ironworks were located nearby and the site contains tracks and mineral tramways used for taking coal to the ironworks.

EDUCATIONAL VALUE:

This is a suitable site to study coal measures sedimentation and to interpret the prevailing depositional environments. Royds Hall Beck is an example of an over-deepened valley with a V - shaped cross section.

AESTHETIC CHARACTERISTICS:

The site is located within Judy Woods, between Wyke and Norwood Green and contains beech and oak woodland. It is much used as a recreational amenity.

ACCESS AND SAFETY:

Park on Station Road and go through the south entrance to Judy Woods. Recent work has greatly improved the footpaths at the site, so the main paths are accessible by wheelchair, though it is not possible to get close to the exposures of rocks in the stream. The slopes of the valley containing Royd Hall Beck are slippery and care should be taken when descending to the stream. For close inspection of the west bank of the stream, waterproof footwear is essential.