

Colden Clough, Heptonstall

STATUS: Local Geological Site

OTHER DESIGNATIONS:

COUNTY: West Yorkshire

DISTRICT: Calderdale

OS GRID REF. SD 983 274 – 962 282

OS 1:50,000 Landranger 103 Blackburn and Burnley

OS 1:25,000 Explorer OL 21 South Pennines

BGS 1:50,000 Sheet 77 Huddersfield

FIRST DESIGNATED by West Yorkshire RIGS Group in 2000

MOST RECENT SURVEY West Yorkshire Geology Trust in February 2009

DESIGNATION SHEET UPDATED August 2009



SITE DESCRIPTION:

Colden Clough is the finest example in Calderdale of a rejuvenated river system. The lower reaches form a steep, rocky clough, where the stream is eroding deeply into the bedrock, in response to the deepening of the Colden Valley at the end of the Ice Age approximately 10,000 years ago.

Jack Bridge marks the position of a knick point, where the steep clough levels out to form the original valley of Noah Dale. Here the stream has not been rejuvenated and flows through the broad valley at a gentle gradient.

The river has incised into the alternating shales and sandstones of the Upper Carboniferous Todmorden Grit, which is a coarse and massive sandstone. McCabe (reference below, p275) mentions that two giant cross-bedding sets can be seen on both sides of the valley at Colden Water and they can be followed for 300m. This represents a very large fluvial channel eroded into a delta top.

HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS:

The Colden Valley is an important industrial archaeological site, because of the history of cotton mills during the industrial revolution.

EDUCATIONAL VALUE:

AESTHETIC CHARACTERISTICS:

Colden Clough is valued for its unique landscape and wildlife habitats. There are prominent exposures of Todmorden Grit above the clough.

ACCESS AND SAFETY:

By footpaths and tracks from Mytholm, Heptonstall and Jack Bridge - Colden Clough lies within an area of access land.