

Gorpley Clough, Todmorden

STATUS: Local Geological Site

OTHER DESIGNATIONS: Local Wildlife Site

COUNTY: West Yorkshire

DISTRICT: Calderdale

OS GRID REF. SD 914 233

OS 1:50,000 Landranger 103 Blackburn and Burnley

OS 1:25,000 Explorer OL 21 South Pennines

BGS 1:50,000 Sheet 76 Rochdale

FIRST DESIGNATED by West Yorkshire RIGS Group in 1996

MOST RECENT SURVEY West Yorkshire Geology Trust March 2011

DESIGNATION SHEET UPDATED March 2011



SITE DESCRIPTION

Gorpley Clough is a very attractive, steep sided valley, into which the river has incised a gorge with many small waterfalls. There is a footpath which runs up the clough as far as Gorpley Reservoir and returns on the north side of the valley. Three resistant beds of sandstone, divided by beds of shale, cut across the clough and form the waterfalls. There are some coal adits on the path on the northern side of the clough.

HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS:

Disused adits can be found on the northern slopes of the clough where a minor coal seam has been mined in previous times. There are the ruins of a former building mid-way along the clough, though it is not known what its use was.

EDUCATIONAL VALUE:

The valley is suitable for small groups of geology students or interested adults to study the depositional sequences of the Millstone Grit Series.

AESTHETIC CHARACTERISTICS:

A fine example of a Pennine clough containing deciduous woodland with many species of flowers, mosses and ferns. The views from the top of the valley towards the moors are spectacular.

ACCESS AND SAFETY:

There is a small car park at SD 918 237 adjacent to the track leading up to the clough. Recent footpath improvements by Calderdale Council Countryside Unit have improved access and safety, although the bridges can be very slippery. Care is required on the steep slopes in the clough. The site is not accessible by wheelchair.