



Lumb Falls, Hebden Bridge

STATUS: Local Geological Site

OTHER DESIGNATIONS: Geological SSSI (Crimsworth Dean)

COUNTY: West Yorkshire

DISTRICT: Calderdale

OS GRID REF. SD 993 314

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 (Solid and Drift)

FIRST DESIGNATED by West Yorkshire RIGS Group in 1996

MOST RECENT SURVEY West Yorkshire Geology Trust in February 2009

DESIGNATION SHEET UPDATED August 2009

SITE DESCRIPTION:

The site demonstrates the role of geology in the process of waterfall formation. Resistant Upper Carboniferous Lower Kinderscout Grit forming the lip of the falls is undercut by the erosion of the softer underlying mudstone. The waterfall has gradually migrated northwards leaving a steep gorge downstream, littered with fallen blocks of gritstone. The shale beneath the falls has been eroded to form a deep plunge pool.

Lumb Falls is a fine example of a Pennine waterfall created where alternate beds of sandstone and mudstone occur within the Namurian (Millstone Grit) Series.

HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS:

The falls are located near an ancient packhorse route. Photograph Plate IIIA p29 in the Huddersfield and Halifax memoir 1930 (see details below) shows the falls as they were then.

EDUCATIONAL VALUE:

The site is suitable for small groups, primary and upwards. The sandstones and shales forming the waterfall are clearly seen, illustrating the role of geology in the formation of Lumb Falls.

AESTHETIC CHARACTERISTICS:

The site forms part of a Pennine landscape containing many traditional stone farmhouses and dry stone walls. Crimsworth Dean to the south of the falls is a haven for wildlife.

ACCESS AND SAFETY:

Access is by public footpath and there is limited parking on Haworth Old Road (SD 994 313).

If possible park at Hardcastle Crags and walk up Crimsworth Dean to the Falls.

Care is required near the waterfall and on the slopes of the gorge.