



Ogden Clough, Ogden Water, Halifax

STATUS: Local Geological Site

OTHER DESIGNATIONS: Site of Ecological or Geological Importance/ Local Nature Reserve

COUNTY: West Yorkshire

DISTRICT: Calderdale

OS GRID REF. SE 054 318

OS 1:50,000 Landranger 104 Leeds and Bradford

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 October 2007

DESIGNATION SHEET UPDATED August 2009

SITE DESCRIPTION:

Bold exposures of Upper Carboniferous Rough Rock sandstone and Rough Rock Flags are found in Ogden Kirk quarries to the north west of Ogden Water. Plant and trace fossils can be found in the sandstones blocks lying in the quarries. Sedimentary structures include cross bedding, graded bedding and ripple marks. Weathering can be observed where the Rough Rock is being broken down into its constituent minerals. Underlying shales and thin sandstones are seen in the deeply eroded clough and these produce many attractive small waterfalls alongside the narrow footpath. Bivalve fossils have been found in the shale exposures. Tufa can be seen forming on the banks of the stream where calcium carbonate is being precipitated from the ground water in the form of an algal mat.

Looking to the east towards Soil Hill, the Coal Measure escarpment can be seen overlying the Millstone Grit series.

HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS:

The flagged quarry road leading to Ogden Kirk quarries is seen in a few places to the north of the Ogden Clough. A Roman road which crosses the area now covered by Ogden Water is shown on the local maps.

EDUCATIONAL VALUE:

The quarries on the moors are suitable for primary groups and upwards, with many fallen blocks, which make this is an ideal site for studying the weathering and erosion of sedimentary rocks. There is evidence of quarrying and coal mining nearby.

The narrow path into the clough has been washed away recently, so it is not possible to reach the shale and tufa exposures in the stream beds and banks.

AESTHETIC CHARACTERISTICS:

The site is surrounded by open moorland and is much frequented by walkers and cyclists. The valley is wooded in the lower areas around Ogden Water, but the upper part of the Ogden Clough is more open and has many small waterfalls.

ACCESS AND SAFETY:

There is a car park by Ogden Water (small charge) which is suitable for minibuses. Access to Ogden Kirk Quarries on the moors is by public footpath and Back Lane, which is a track above the woods to the north of Ogden Water. The quarry faces should not be approached without hard hats. However, there are plenty of fallen blocks in the floors of the quarries which can be studied. There is no wheelchair access. The narrow path along the stream in Ogden Clough has been washed away recently so the shale and tufa exposures are inaccessible.

OTHER INFORMATION:

Calderdale Countryside Countryside Centre, Ogden Water, has a classroom which can be used for educational activities, by arrangement with the managers of the site. There are toilets close to the information centre and a small café nearby.