

Butterley Cutting, Marsden

STATUS: Local Geological Site

OTHER DESIGNATIONS: Peak District National Park /Kirklees Local Wildlife Site

COUNTY: West Yorkshire

DISTRICT: Kirklees

OS GRID REFERENCE SE 048 104 to 049 106

OS 1:50,000 Landranger 110 Sheffield and Huddersfield

OS 1:25,000 EXPLORER 288 Bradford and Huddersfield

BGS 1:50,000 SHEET 86 Glossop

FIRST DESIGNATED by West Yorkshire RIGS Group in 1996

DATE OF MOST RECENT SURVEY January 2009

SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION produced by Ian Chisholm

DESIGNATION SHEET UPDATED August 2009



SITE DESCRIPTION:

The cutting runs along the eastern side of Butterley reservoir, to the south of Marsden, for about 100m. It is about 5m high at the northern end but becomes higher to the south along the track. Access to the uppermost rocks is gained by a footpath to a small quarry above the track. The rocks are Upper Carboniferous Namurian (Millstone Grit) rocks and include sandstones with cross-bedding, shales and siltstones, which contain fossils. The beds dip gently to the north.

A stratigraphic log has been produced and this gives the detailed rock types and their thicknesses.

HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS:

The cutting was produced when the Butterley Reservoir was built between 1891 and 1906.

The photo below shows the junction between Upper Kinderscout Grit and the mudstones below, dipping at a gentle angle.

EDUCATIONAL VALUE:

This cutting is on a public track and could be used to teach basic geology with links to the construction of Butterley Dam. At a higher level, the site is excellent for stratigraphic logging as there is access to the whole sequence of rocks.

AESTHETIC CHARACTERISTICS:

There are good views of the Wessenden valley, Marsden and the surrounding moorlands.

ACCESS AND SAFETY:

The access is from Binn Road, south of Marsden, by a public track at Butterley Dam. The track, which allows wheelchair access, gives access to the foot of cutting. There is space for car parking (for two cars or a minibus but not for coaches). The upper face may be unstable but the rock cutting has been drained with a ditch, which means that people are not able to approach within 2m of the face itself.