



Ackworth Moor Top Quarry

STATUS: Local Geological Site

OTHER DESIGNATIONS:

COUNTY: West Yorkshire

DISTRICT: Wakefield

OS GRID REF. SE 4395 1655

OS 1:50,000 Landranger 111 Sheffield and Doncaster area

OS 1:25,000 Explorer 278 Sheffield and Barnsley

BGS 1:50,000 Sheet 78 Wakefield

FIRST DESIGNATED by West Yorkshire Geology Trust in 2012

DATE OF MOST RECENT SURVEY West Yorkshire Geology Trust in October 2012

DESIGNATION SHEET UPDATED November 2012

SITE DESCRIPTION:

The site consists of a disused stone quarry with a disused mineral railway cutting bisecting the exposed face and going under Bell Lane. The quarry faces are between 4 and 6m in height and about 40m in length, but some sections are covered by vegetation. There is exposed rock in the railway tunnel under the road.

The sandstone is called the Ackworth Rock, of Bolsovian (Westphalian C), Upper Carboniferous age. It is a medium-brown fine-grained sandstone with sub-angular particles and contains some mica flakes. It is generally well cemented, but some areas are poorly cemented and show signs of rapid weathering. The beds are generally horizontal and are 0.5 to 1m thick, with vertical joints.

The sandstones show planar and trough cross stratification, bed scouring and changes in current direction. Current direction varies, but is generally between 270° and 290°.

There are irregular and random siderite nodules in some beds and some faces show tool marks from quarrying.

HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS:

Quarrying started in Ackworth in 1629 granted by a charter from King Charles. The Brackenhill Light Railway (BLR) connected several quarries in Ackworth to the main rail lines and ran through this site. The quarry was owned by William W. Bowman before its closure. Moor Top Quarries and the BLR closed in 1962. Though producing building stone for local use, the main output was grindstones and scythe-sharpening stones.

EDUCATIONAL VALUE:

This is an ideal site for educational groups to observe sandstones and their features.

AESTHETIC CHARACTERISTICS:

ACCESS AND SAFETY:

The site is in Ackworth Moor Top, 50 metres on the right after turning from Pontefract Road on to Bell Lane. The quarry face forms one side of a large car park and there is a playground and green space with footpaths. The exposures are safe and are easily accessible over flat grassy ground. The bottom of the face next to the car park is kept clear of vegetation.