

Barnsley Canal, Old Royston



STATUS: Local Geological Site

OTHER DESIGNATIONS:

COUNTY: West Yorkshire

DISTRICT: Wakefield

OS GRID REF. SE 36724 13348 to 36442 13740

OS 1:50,000 Landranger 104 Leeds and Bradford

OS 1:25,000 Explorer 289 Leeds

BGS 1:50,000 Sheet 78 Wakefield

FIRST DESIGNATED by West Yorkshire Geology Trust in 2012

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

DESIGNATION SHEET UPDATED November 2012

SITE DESCRIPTION:

The designated site covers the canal cutting and tow path on the south-east side of the Barnsley Canal between High Bridge on Notton Lane (SE 367 133) and a point 560m north-west along the canal (SE 364 138). The nearest small hamlet is Old Royston. The canal cutting is up to 10m high and much of it is tree-covered, though there are exposures of sandstones and siltstones in several places. In places there are large fallen blocks which show bedding planes and 10mm iron nodules. A spring-line can be seen between sandstones and mudstones and it has created a small waterfall next to the towpath. Two old quarries of considerable size are completely overgrown. They were probably exploited for coal and fireclay.

HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS:

The Barnsley, Dearne and Dove Canals Trust website has plenty of information on the history of the canal network in this area. <http://www.bddct.org.uk/home.html>

Some geological information has been added to the website at

<http://www.bddct.org.uk/geology/geology.html>

EDUCATIONAL VALUE:

This is not a site where it is easy to manage a large party, as the canal towpath is only 2-3m wide and the cutting slopes are not accessible. However, small groups would find the variety of rock types and sedimentary features of great interest.

AESTHETIC CHARACTERISTICS:

The canal cutting is wooded and the canal itself has biodiversity interest.

ACCESS AND SAFETY:

The Sustrans Trans-Pennine Trail runs along the towpath, so there is heavy use by cyclists.

There is roadside parking on Notton Lane with access to the canal towpath via a steep path. The towpath to the cutting can also be reached from the parking area on Cold Hiendley Common Lane via a level path.