



Holywell Wood, Glass Houghton

STATUS: Local Geological Site

OTHER DESIGNATIONS: Part of Holywell Wood is a Site of Special Interest, though this is not thought to coincide with the area designated as an LGS

COUNTY: West Yorkshire

DISTRICT: Wakefield

OS GRID REF. SE 445 245

OS 1:50,000 Landranger 105 York and Selby

OS 1:25,000 Explorer 289 Leeds

BGS 1:50,000 Sheet 78 Wakefield

FIRST DESIGNATED by West Yorkshire Geology Trust in October 2012

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

DESIGNATION SHEET UPDATED November 2012

SITE DESCRIPTION:

The site is found in an area where extensive sand mining has taken place in the past. Old woodland covers some of the site, but an exposure has been cleared recently to show a quarry face about 30m long and 6m high. The base of the quarry consists of Upper Carboniferous Coal Measures sediments, which are overlain by about 4m of Permian Yellow Sands Formation overlain by about 2m of Cadeby Formation dolostone. At the base of the Yellow Sands lies the Permo-Carboniferous unconformity.

HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS:

In other areas around Pontefract and Glass Houghton, the Yellow Sands Formation has been quarried and mined to provide sand for iron-moulding and the manufacture of glass. The map in the Wakefield memoir (1999) (Figure 3) shows that this locality was an area of sand mining. The 1979 Journal of the Yorkshire Subterranean Society has an article from J. Hodgkins with a detailed description, with mine plans, of the underground workings.

EDUCATIONAL VALUE:

Permission is needed from the owners for any visits. This site should not be used by groups because of the safety aspects and should not be visited for any reason without the landowner's permission.

AESTHETIC CHARACTERISTICS:

ACCESS AND SAFETY:

The site is potentially unsafe because of the ease with which the unconsolidated sands could collapse.