



Nostell Priory Medieval Quarry

STATUS: Local Geological Site

OTHER DESIGNATIONS:

COUNTY: West Yorkshire

DISTRICT: Wakefield

OS GRID REF: SE 402 176

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 November 2012

DESIGNATION SHEET UPDATED November 2012

SITE DESCRIPTION:

The medieval quarry lies in Nostell Priory grounds, in woods to the west of Middle Lake. The sandstone exposed is unnamed but lies below the Ackworth Rock which is of Bolsovian (Westphalian C), Upper Carboniferous age. The faces of the quarry are about 5m high and about 30m in total length. On one face at the back of the quarry, there are very clear mason's marks, which probably date from medieval times. The fine-grained sandstones are pale grey and yellow. The bedding is closely-spaced, between 2 and 10cms. Cross-bedded sets, with erosive scours at the bases, are common.

HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS:

The medieval priory, which was founded in the early C12th near the site of the present house, was probably built from sandstone from this quarry. The menagerie garden was established on the site of the quarry in the late 1750s and contained cages which were used to house exotic animals.

EDUCATIONAL VALUE:

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

AESTHETIC CHARACTERISTICS:

The disused quarry has been managed for plants and wildlife and the old spoil tips have been planted very attractively.

ACCESS AND SAFETY:

Park in designated car parks for Nostell Priory for which there is a charge. Nostell Priory is between Ackworth and Wakefield on the A638. There is a further charge for visiting the gardens and therefore for gaining access to the quarry, which is known as the Menagerie Garden. There are good footpaths to Middle Lake. Most of the quarry faces are easily accessible, though there are garden beds in front of some faces.