

Sandal Castle

STATUS: Local Geological Site
OTHER DESIGNATIONS: Scheduled and listed English Heritage site.
COUNTY: West Yorkshire
DISTRICT: Wakefield
OS GRID REF. SE 33751 18152
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 November 2012 by West Yorkshire Geology Trust
DESIGNATION SHEET UPDATED November 2012



SITE DESCRIPTION:

Sandal Castle is a C13th motte and bailey castle, now ruined, standing on a prominent hill just outside Wakefield. The exposure of Crigglestone Rock is in the central ditch of the castle, below the foundations of the (ruined) bailey tower and the viewpoint. Above the exposure is 12th century stonework. Below the viewpoint, the rock exposure is 4m high, declining to a height of 2m round to the eastern side.

The Crigglestone Rock is a flaggy, medium-grained yellow sandstone exhibiting herringbone cross bedding. It is of Duckmantian (Westphalian B), Upper Carboniferous age.

HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS:

Information about the history of the castle is available in the Visitor Centre on the site.
<http://www.archaeology.wyjs.org.uk/documents/archaeology/castles/Sandal-Castle.pdf>

EDUCATIONAL VALUE:

Many school parties and families visit the site for historical interest. There is a mention of the geographical significance of the site in the visitor centre.

AESTHETIC CHARACTERISTICS:

This is a beautifully restored ruined castle, with good views over Wakefield and the surrounding areas.

ACCESS AND SAFETY:

The castle is just west of Sandal, a few miles south-east of Wakefield, and is signposted from the A61. There is free parking at the Castle car park, off Manygates Lane. Admission to the site is free and the castle and grounds are open all the year round. The Visitor Centre is open Wednesday to Sunday, 11.00 - 5.00.