

GEOLOGICAL INTERPRETATION BOARD AT JOHNSONS WELLFIELD QUARRY, HUDDERSFIELD

An interpretation board showing local geology and quarry products was installed close to Morefield Quarry in 2001. The board was produced by Johnsons Wellfield Quarries and the geological input provided by Huddersfield Geology Group. After 10 years the panel was looking a bit old and was removed, although it was much appreciated by local people.

An opportunity arose to replace the panel when the West Yorkshire Geology Trust was approached by Ian Thomas, of the National Stone Centre in Derbyshire, who was co-ordinating a project to improve public interpretation in 10 stone quarries throughout the country. The project was funded by MIRO (Mineral Industry Research Organisation). Ian asked WYGT for some input and it was decided to use some of the original material, particularly the geological cross-section. New photos were provided by JWQ and the diagrams were redrawn and a new text written.

The new board was produced and installed by JWQ and it is hoped that it adds to the understanding and enjoyment of those who walk past regularly and are able to see into the quarry nearby. The panel is positioned on Sands Lane a few hundred metres beyond the Sands House pub at SE 116 142.



WEST YORKSHIRE GEOLOGY TRUST NEWSLETTER 11 SPRING 2012



CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

We are planning lots of geological guided walks for the spring and summer and the first spring events are detailed in this newsletter.

The Trust has been busy during the winter with indoor work. One of our committee members has planned educational material to use for teaching Key Stage 2 Soils and Weathering for Primary Schools and we hope to finalise the details on that in the next few months.

A group of about 10 members is working on surveying for new geological sites in the Wakefield and East Kirklees areas, hoping to find good exposures which show examples of rocks which we have not recorded before. The best of these sites will be designated as Local Geological Sites and will be recorded by local planning authorities.

If you know of any good rock exposures in your area, we will always be pleased to hear about them. They may be an example of an unusual rock or feature. Check the website first to make sure that they have not already been designated as Local Geological Sites.

Alison Tymon

We have found the Hampole Beds!

A small group of keen people based in the Boston Spa area have been researching their local geology for several years. The Hampole Beds are less than 1 m thick but are an important boundary between two types of Permian limestones. After a recent revisit to a local quarry with a professional expert to help, it was established that the Hampole Beds have been uncovered. The group will now make a very detailed study of the quarry face and record all its features.

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PROJECTS

We have been working on interpretation for six sites on the Pennine Moors for a project called Pennine Watershed Landscapes, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. The research on the sites has taken a year, but we are hoping to see results this year.

A geological trail over Penistone Hill, Haworth, is planned. It will start in the centre of Haworth and visit quarries, a coal mine and Dimples Quarry, the Local Geological Site. Improvements to the footpaths and cleaning of a quarry face, shown in the photo to the right, have already been carried out by Bradford Countryside Services. Four stone carvings to mark important points on the geological trail have been carved by Stevan Tica, a local sculptor from Baildon.



A similar trail is being planned for Todmorden Moor and the text for six interpretation boards is being written at the moment. A further interpretation board is planned for the dam wall at Widdop, Calderdale, and will explain the formation of Cludders Rocks, the dramatic feature which overlooks Widdop, shown in the photo to the left.

A geological report on Baildon Moor has been produced for a research team looking at the old mining landscapes in the area. It is hoped that we will be able to produce interpretation material so that the many people who walk on Baildon Moor will be able to appreciate the wonderful industrial heritage there. The photo shows a mine shaft on the top of Baildon Hill.



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Roundhay Park, Leeds

Saturday 10th March 1.15 – 4.00

Leeds Geological Association/Friends of Roundhay Park
Meet Bill Fraser outside Mansion House Visitors Centre, LS8 2JL, (SE 330 383) in Roundhay Park. A guided walk of approximately 2.5 miles around a marked Geological Trail taking about 3 hours, with stops for discussion. Features seen are shales and several different types of sandstone (some of which contain fossils), as well as sedimentary and tectonic structures. Footpaths are graded for easy walking but can be muddy in wet weather.

Rocks and Fossils of Todmorden Moor, Calderdale

Sunday 18th March at 1.00 – 4.00

Rochdale Naturalists' Group and Halifax Scientific Society
Meet Alison Tymon for a walk of about 2 miles along roads and tracks to see old coal mines and quarries, with a chance of finding coal balls and other fossils. Park on the road near Sourhall Cottages, Sourhall Road, Todmorden (SD 917 247)
Todmorden Moor is high and exposed so bring waterproofs, wear good shoes or boots and warm clothing, if needed. Bring a hand lens to see fossils clearly.

Upton Country Park, Wakefield

Upton – 300 Million Years Ago!

Saturday 24th March 1.00 – 3.00

Wakefield Council
Meet Alison Tymon at the car park at the side of the Library, Upton (SE 483 137) WF9 1FE
A short walk of about 1 mile around Upton to find out the story of the amazing rocks laid down in tropical seas and deltas during Carboniferous times, which make up the landscape and gave Upton the coal on which its mining heritage was founded. Bring a lens if you have one, so that you can look closely at some of the rocks we will see.

Building Stones in the centre of Halifax

Sunday 29th April 2.00 – 4.00

Calderdale Council
Halifax Parish Church (Minster), Kirkgate by the main porch (SE 097 252) finishing at the Piece Hall
Meet Alison Tymon for a gentle walk of less than 1 mile around the centre of Halifax to see the variety of local and imported decorative rocks used in the buildings. Bring a lens if you have one, so that you can look closely at some of the rocks we will see.

Roundhay Park, Leeds

Saturday 12th May 1.15 – 4.00

Leeds Geological Association/Friends of Roundhay Park
Meet Bill Fraser outside Mansion House Visitors Centre, LS8 2JL, (SE 330 383) in Roundhay Park. A guided walk of approximately 2.5 miles around a marked Geological Trail taking about 3 hours, with stops for discussion. Features seen are shales and several different types of sandstone (some of which contain fossils), as well as sedimentary and tectonic structures. Footpaths are graded for easy walking but can be muddy in wet weather.

Building Stones of the Centre of Bradford

Sunday 13th May 2.00 – 4.00

Meet Richard Butcher at Centenary Square (SE 163 329) by the pond on the side of the shops. The walk of about 1 mile will explore the building stones used in Bradford, including the excellent local sandstones and the decorative stones used on shop fronts and open spaces. Bring a lens if you have one, so that you can look closely at some of the rocks we will see.