

PROJECTS

WYGT is involved in several projects concerned with updating the database of Local Geological Sites in West Yorkshire.

During winter 2009 we surveyed a selection of LGS to try out a new system which enables geologists to monitor their condition. This helps us assess whether the LGS needs management to improve its condition and to maintain its geological or geomorphological interest. We have just completed condition monitoring 14 sites for Kirklees Environment Unit and are now starting with the work of monitoring another 25 LGS in the other four local authorities in West Yorkshire.

Sites in the Wetherby area are being investigated with a view to designating three sites as Local Geological Sites. Two are in the Permian dolostones and one site shows a glacial moraine. WYGT has received a grant from Natural England, through the Yorkshire and Humber Regional Geodiversity Forum, to finish the designation process by March 2010.

Otley Chevin is a dramatic ridge overlooking Wharfedale and is visited by thousands of people who enjoy the woods and the views. There are sandstone quarries along the ridge, with dramatic crags and huge slipped boulders in places. Leeds City Council's warden at Otley Chevin has obtained funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund to promote the geology and heritage of the site, working with WYGT and the Friends of Otley Chevin. We have written a geological guide which is linked to a short walk which will be marked by carved stones. A podcast and renewal of the interpretation board at Surprise View is still to come.



LEFT - crag at East Chevin Quarry
RIGHT - Vacca wall near the White House



WYGT also embarked this summer on a project to inform all landowners and managers of LGS of the significance of their sites. Many of the 70 LGS in West Yorkshire are owned and managed by one of the five local authorities, Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees, Leeds and Wakefield or by Yorkshire Water. However there are several dozen owned by individuals or trusts and the ownership has been difficult to identify in some cases. However, nearly all owners have been identified and supplied, out of courtesy, with the designation sheet and a map to delineate their LGS.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Frickley Country Park, South Elmsall, Wakefield

Rock around Frickley Colliery – a walk around the newly landscaped colliery site

Saturday 9th January 2.00 – 4.00

Organised by Wakefield Council

A short walk of less than a mile to see the recently landscaped Frickley Colliery site, now turned into a large country park. The restored site has many geological features of interest, including large boulders of local rocks, which can be easily examined with a hand-lens, and a footpath indicating the depth of Coal Shaft No 1, showing which coal seams were encountered.

Meet at the car park (Grid Reference SE 477 100) on the B6422 about half a mile south of South Elmsall railway station. Footpaths are graded for easy walking.

Rocks and landscapes in Beaumont Park, Huddersfield

Sunday 17th January 1.30 – 3.00

Organised by Kirklees Council

Meet at the Gatehouse to Beaumont Park (SE 126 144) at 1.30 for a very short walk around Beaumont Park, with wonderful views of the Holme Valley landscapes and spectacular cliffs, with interesting rocks and features to see. The footpaths are slightly rough but this walk is accessible for wheelchairs. Buses from Huddersfield Bus Station along Beaumont Park Road stop close to the park. The walk from the centre of Huddersfield is about 2 miles.

Folly Dolly Falls, Meltham, near Huddersfield

The rocks of Huddersfield's famous waterfall

Sunday February 28th 2.00 – 4.00

Organised by Kirklees Council

A short walk along the Meltham Greenway to see a waterfall formed by sandstones and mudstones. Meet at Morrison's car park, Meltham, (SE 101 108) at 2.00 below the steep rock exposure.

Buses from Huddersfield to Meltham reach the bus station behind the Library, which is a short walk from Morrison's supermarket. There is a steep, muddy path and a stone stile to negotiate so there is no wheelchair access. It is **advisable** to wear wellington boots, as it is necessary to wade in the stream in order to see the waterfall. Families are welcome, but children should be accompanied by a

GEOLOGY COURSE IN HUDDERSFIELD

Yorkshire Rocks is a WEA funded course which starts on Monday 11th January 2010 at the Tolson Museum, Wakefield Road, Huddersfield. The course fee is £60 (full) or £3 (claimant). Details can be obtained from Linda Croft (WEA Regional Organiser) at lcroft@wea.org.uk or Bill Paley (Course Tutor) at wjpaley@yahoo.com. Each session will run for 2 hours with a start time at 2.00pm.

The Tolson Museum's comprehensive collection of rocks and fossils will be available to students to examine but learners will be encouraged to bring in their own examples as topics for discussion. The aim of the course is to introduce the diversity of the rocks, minerals and fossils found in the Yorkshire area and to investigate how this Geology has influenced the county's rich heritage of landscape and industry.