

THREE NEW LOCAL GEOLOGICAL SITES IN WEST YORKSHIRE

The original 70 geological sites in West Yorkshire were surveyed during the 1990s but WYGT is always looking for new sites that represent the rocks in the county. We have researched three areas around Wetherby this winter and the new sites will be designated as LGS in the near future. Full details will be available on the website.

The Wetherby area has Upper Permian dolostones, which are part of the geological series that used to be called the Lower and Upper Magnesian Limestones. They form a ridge running north-south through the Vale of York from Sunderland to Doncaster, which has provided building stone for many villages and towns, including York. These yellow and grey limestones outcrop along the east side of West Yorkshire through Pontefract and Knottingley and have been quarried for road stone and agricultural lime for centuries.

Wetherby Riverside Cliffs is a cliff of Cadeby Formation dolostone adjacent to the River Wharfe. The cliff is about 150m long and 5-8m high and was probably carved by the river during high flow conditions, possibly during the last glacial event. The dolostones are very regularly bedded yellow and cream limestones which were precipitated in a very shallow, warm marine environment.

Boston Spa Riverside Woods are owned by Boston Spa Parish Council who are going to position interpretation boards, showing wildlife and geology, in the woods. Large algal reefs in the Cadeby Formation are best seen from the east bank of the river Wharfe near Thorp Arch.

Walton Moraine is close to the village of Walton, near Wetherby, and is important because it is part of the large Escrick moraine system which was deposited during the melting of the Vale of York glacier about 12,000 years ago.



WEST YORKSHIRE GEOLOGY TRUST NEWSLETTER SPRING 2010



CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

There have been positive comments about the newsletter, which will be produced four times a year and sent out to all members. There are various WYGT activities already planned for the spring and summer, so we hope to see some of you there.

The guided walks give you an opportunity to visit Local Geological Sites in various parts of the county and look at a variety of different rocks and fossils, guided by one of our members. We are very grateful to the West Yorkshire local authorities who include us in their countryside walks programmes. Their advertising means that we are able to reach many walkers and countryside enthusiasts who would like to know more about the geology of this area.

We enjoy activities aimed at children and young people and have arranged two Geodays for school holiday times, one during the Easter holidays at Bracken Hall, Shipley and one in the summer at Anglers Countryside Centre, near Wakefield.

The next general meeting takes place on Saturday 6th March. It is very short and is confined to WYGT's activities, as we cover the business side of the organisation at executive meetings. We also include a short field trip to an Local Geological Site, so you are very welcome to join us. Details are found in the newsletter.

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