



Eaves Top Quarries, Stainland

STATUS: Local Geological Site

OTHER DESIGNATIONS:

COUNTY: West Yorkshire

DISTRICT: Calderdale

OS GRID REF: SE 080 201

OS 1: 50,000 Landranger Sheet 104 Leeds and Bradford, but note that Stainland village is on Sheet 110 Sheffield and Huddersfield

1:25,000 Explorer 288 Bradford and Huddersfield

BGS 1:50,000 Sheet 77 Huddersfield Solid and Drift

FIRST DESIGNATED by West Yorkshire RIGS Group in 1996

DATE OF MOST RECENT SURVEY West Yorkshire Geology Trust January 2009

DESIGNATION SHEET UPDATED August 2009

SITE DESCRIPTION

Exposures of Upper Carboniferous Yeadonian Rough Rock and Rough Rock Flags are revealed in a series of quarry faces forming a 300m edge north of the village of Stainland. The site displays a range of sedimentary features including faulting, massive to fine bedding, cross bedding and horizons of coarse quartz. Some sections illustrate the resistant qualities of this rock which make it a valuable building stone, particularly its grain size, structure and mineralogy.

HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS:

The quarries were standing (which presumably means that they were not being actively worked) in 1930, according to the Huddersfield and Halifax memoir p.199 (reference below), producing building stone. There is a comment, on p46 of the memoir, that the Rough Rock was largely used for road setts and curbs in the Halifax area at that time. The 1927 Rochdale memoir (details below) says on p155 that the Rough Rock was crushed to obtain sand and gravel for concrete.

EDUCATIONAL VALUE:

The quarry face to the western end of the site is especially suitable for geological parties. The flat, grassy areas provide good access to the rock exposures. There are seats overlooking the valley to the north, so good views of the geological landscape can be observed. The eastern end of the quarry is generally inaccessible, though there are some small footpaths through it.

AESTHETIC CHARACTERISTICS:

There are good views to Norland Moor, Ovenden Moors and the escarpment above Halifax to the north, which allow the relationship of rock type to landscape to be shown.

ACCESS AND SAFETY:

A car park is located in Stainland. Several footpaths lead to the site from Stainland village (adjacent to the village shop) through the cricket and football pitches. Access would be difficult by wheelchair.

The quarry faces may be unsafe, though there is no sign of recent falls. Hard hats should be worn if the face is approached. However, there are two stacks of solid rock which have been left away from the face in the level ground of the quarry, which can be approached safely.