

Burton Dene Quarry, Kirkburton



STATUS: Local Geological Site

OTHER DESIGNATIONS:

COUNTY: West Yorkshire

DISTRICT: Kirklees

OS GRID REFERENCE SE 195 132

OS 1:50,000 Landranger 110 Sheffield and Huddersfield

OS 1:25,000 Explorer 288 Bradford and Huddersfield

BGS 1:50,000 Sheet 77 Huddersfield

FIRST DESIGNATED by West Yorkshire Geology Trust in 2012

DATE OF MOST RECENT SURVEY West Yorkshire Geology Trust in January 2012

DESIGNATION SHEET UPDATED October 2012

SITE DESCRIPTION:

There are two main quarry faces each about 5-8m high and 30-50m in total length. They are aligned east-west. The quarry floor is overgrown with trees in places and there are sections of quarry face which are difficult to reach. The sandstone is called the Kirkburton Rock, of Langsettian (Westphalian A), Upper Carboniferous age. The rock is very jointed and quarry faces may be unstable. The sandstone beds are about 10-30cm thick and pale yellow in colour, with very orange weathering surfaces in many places. The variable bed thickness results from very noticeable cross-bedding and some beds have scoured deeply into the beds below.

HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS:

Trade directories in Huddersfield Local History Library have considerable information about this quarry, which was more extensive than the present faces indicate. A map from 1850 records Burton Dean Quarry, also called Dyson's Quarry and a 1863-4 trade directory recorded George Dyson as quarry master at High Burton and in 1866 Edmund and George Dyson as stone masons/merchants in Kirkburton. The quarry clearly employed at least two stone masons in 1864, as they are recorded as working in Slantgate, a short lane which gives access to another part of the same quarry. In 1879, Edmund Dyson was recorded as a quarry owner in Slantgate. In 1881, George and Sam Armitage were recorded as stone-cutters and Joe Scott was mason and stone merchant both in High Burton, adjacent to this quarry face. The date of closure of the quarry is not known.

EDUCATIONAL VALUE:

The quarry has good access on the footpath and would be suitable for visits by school parties, though it would be best to keep away from the main quarry faces.

AESTHETIC CHARACTERISTICS:

ACCESS:

There is good access from the footpath which leaves the B6116 close to the quarry and is a signposted footpath to Highburton. Parking is available on the B6116 close to the footpath and the quarry is to the north of the footpath in woodland.