
A4 DR2 Harlington Railway Cutting

Site information

Site name: Harlington Railway Cutting

Site key: DR2

Grid reference: [SE 4772 0331] (centred on)

Site type: disused quarries, pits and cuttings

Local authority: Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council, South Yorkshire

Site dimensions: 1500 m x 7 m

Site owner: Not known

Conservation status: Possible Regionally Important Geological Site

Date: No Date

Field surveyor: Scott Engering **Date:** 13/3/07

Stratigraphy and rock types

Time unit: Carboniferous, Westphalian **Rock unit:** Ackworth Rock, Pennine Middle Coal Measures Formation, Pennine Coal Measure Group

Rock type: Sandstone **Details:** Massive cross-bedded sandstone with some flaggy beds

Site map

(Figure 23) — DR2 Harlington Railway Cutting

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Site description

The site surveyed comprises the section of old railway cutting to the east of Harlington. Occasional and very isolated exposures of Ackworth Rock appear in the cutting east of Hollowgate, comprising blocks of massive and cross-bedded sandstone no larger than 2 m by 2 m, with occasional flaggy beds. At no point is there any good section of rock that displays the characteristics of the strata and there is little of educational or scientific value except to note the presence of strata that have not been identified as RIGS. Between Hollowgate and Green Lane Bridge, the path was covered in deep mud and not safely accessible.

From Green Lane Bridge, exposure of rock in the cutting was slightly better but again these were very small and isolated, with no good full sections. Based on criteria for the original RIGS survey and for the purposes of the current survey, this site would not be considered as as a RIGS, with its only real value being for geological field mapping work.

RIGS assessment of site value DR2 Harlington Railway Cutting

Ratings: 1–2 very poor; 3–4 poor; 5–6 acceptable/useful; 7–8 quite good; 9–10 very good/excellent; N/A not applicable; D/K don't know

Access and safety

Aspect/Description/Rating road access & parking On street at Green Lane. Very restricted at Hollowgate. Rating: 5

Safety of access From Hollowgate, along specially built path. Muddy bank at Green Lane off agricultural land. Fieldwork precautions needed. Rating: 5

Safety of exposure Exposures visible from cutting floor, but very muddy in places. Rating: 5

Permission to visit N/A

Current condition Most of the eastern end is embankment. Western end more rocky but heavily vegetated. Rating: 5

Current conflicting activities None envisaged

Restricting conditions Limited exposures available

Nature of exposure Old railway cutting

Multiple exposures/prospect for trail Limited value

Notes

Culture, heritage & economic

Aspect/Description/Rating

Historic, archaeological & literary associations Industrial archaeology and railway history of area. Rating: 5

Aesthetic landscape Very limited due to sunken position. Adjacent to restored site of Barnburgh Colliery. Rating: 4

History of earth sciences Research field mapping value only. Rating: 7

Economic geology Industrial archaeology associated with former Barnburgh Colliery. Rating: 5

Notes Limited value except for associations with Barnburgh Colliery

Education and science

Surface processes vegetation growth on rocky outcrops Rating: 5

Geomorphology Not applicable Rating: 0

Sedimentary Limited opportunities to study lithology due to lack of exposure. Rating: 5

Fossils Not applicable. Rating: 0

Igneous Not applicable 0

Metamorphic Not applicable 0

Tectonic: structural Not applicable. Rating: 0

Minerals Not applicable.. Rating: 0

Stratigraphy Research and mapping potential as a very rare exposure of Ackworth Rock. Rating: 5

Notes

Geodiversity value

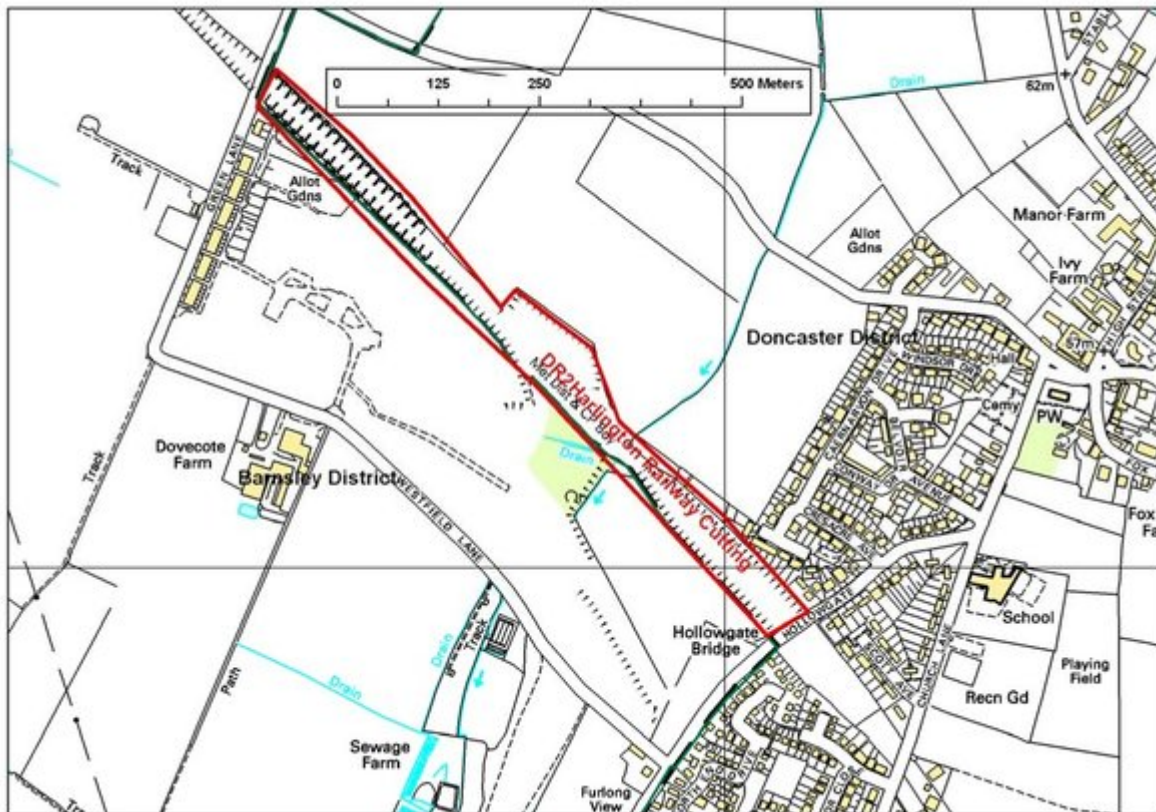
Limited. Very limited exposure of value to research and field mapping only. Rating: 5

Site photographs DR2 Harlington Railway Cutting

(Figure 24) Exposure A. Massive Ackworth Rock overlain by flaggy rock and soil in embankment. [SE 47721 03309].

(Figure 25) Exposure B. Cross bedded sandstone. [SE 47934 03075].

(Figure 26) General view of cutting from Green Lane. [SE 47474 03597].



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(Figure 24) Exposure A. Massive Ackworth Rock overlain by flaggy rock and soil in embankment. [SE 47721 03309].



(Figure 25) Exposure B. Cross bedded sandstone. [SE 47934 03075].



(Figure 26) General view of cutting from Green Lane. [SE 47474 03597].