

Date notified: 21 March 1997

File ref: SD 39/11

County: Cumbria **Site Name:** Yewdale Beck

District: South Lakeland

Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended.

Local Planning Authority: Lake District Special Planning Board

National Grid Reference: SD 307985 **Area:**0.7 (ha) 1.7 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 9 6 **1:10,000:** SD 39 NW

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1997

Other Information:

A Geological Conservation Review (GCR) site.
This site lies within the Lake District National Park.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

Yewdale Beck is located approximately 1 km north east of the village of Coniston. The site consists of a short stream section with rock exposures in the banks, bed and river cliffs of Yewdale Beck.

Rock sections at this site show strata belonging to the Ashgill Formation and Skelgill Formation straddling the Ordovician–Silurian boundary. These rocks are of graptolitic facies. This is the best exposures in the western Lake District in these strata, and yields the graptolite *Glyptograptus persculptus*, the index of the highest pre-Silurian graptolite Zone and a species of restricted distribution in Cumbria. Similarly the overlying earliest Silurian graptolite Zone (that of *Orthograptus acuminatus*) is better developed here than in the eastern Lake District. These differences reflect the presence of active faults and barriers in the Lake District in late Ordovician and early Silurian times.

This site is a key site for the study of early Silurian stratigraphy and palaeogeography in Britain.