

Scarr Wood, Halifax



STATUS: Local Geological Site
OTHER DESIGNATIONS: Local Nature Reserve
COUNTY: West Yorkshire
DISTRICT: Calderdale
OS GRID REF. SE 083 234
OS 1:50,000 Landranger 104 Leeds and Bradford
OS 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
MOST RECENT SURVEY West Yorkshire Geology Trust January 2009
DESIGNATION SHEET UPDATED August 2009

SITE DESCRIPTION:

Numerous eroded crags of Namurian Rough Rock form a 200m edge overlooking the Calder Valley. The exposure contains exceptionally well preserved cross bedding which enables the direction of palaeocurrents to be measured. The site also contains a range of sedimentary structures and plant fossils.

HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS:

This is a pleasant park, laid out in the Victorian period. The frontispiece to the 1930 Huddersfield and Halifax memoir (details below) shows Scarr Wood and there is a mention of it on p46.

EDUCATIONAL VALUE:

This site is suitable for small groups of higher level students, especially those interested in mapping palaeocurrents in fluvial sandstones.

AESTHETIC CHARACTERISTICS:

Scarr Wood is a valuable amenity area with woodland walks just below the crags. The site overlooks the Calder Valley to the west and has spectacular views.

ACCESS AND SAFETY:

Footpaths lead to the site from Albert Promenade, which is a wide road with easy parking. There are seats on Albert Promenade with low walls separating the pavement from the crags. Do not attempt to climb rock exposures and keep to the footpaths, which are suitable for wheelchairs.