

Wetherby Riverside Cliffs



STATUS: Local Geological Site

OTHER DESIGNATIONS:

COUNTY: West Yorkshire

DISTRICT: Leeds

OS GRID REF. SE 406 478 - SE 406 477

OS 1:50,000 Landranger 105 York & Selby

OS 1:25,000 EXPLORER 289 Leeds

BGS 1:50,000 SHEET 70 Leeds

FIRST DESIGNATED West Yorkshire Geology Trust in February 2010

DATE OF MOST RECENT SURVEY February 2015 by West Yorkshire Geology Trust

DESIGNATION SHEET UPDATED September 2015

SITE DESCRIPTION:

The site is a cliff of Upper Permian Cadeby Formation dolomite (formerly known as the Lower Magnesian Limestone) adjacent to the River Wharfe which flows south-east from Wetherby. The cliff is about 150m long and 5-8m high and has probably been carved by the river during high flow conditions, possibly during the last glacial event. The rocks are bedded yellow and cream dolomitic limestones of the Sprotborough Member (upper member) of the Cadeby Formation and show minor cross-bedding and channel scouring in places. At the south end of the cliff there is a large recess 100m long containing flash flood breccias. The basal beds at the north end of the cliff include the upper part of the Hampole Beds, found at the base of the Sprotborough Member.

HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS:

EDUCATIONAL VALUE:

The site is ideal for groups on a guided visit, perhaps linked with the Local Geological Site at the Boston Spa Riverside Woods, further down the Wharfe valley. The rocks show many features typical of sediment deposition on the shallow, lagoonal shoreline of the Zechstein Sea and are easily accessible for large parties. The site has been logged by West Yorkshire Geology Trust and further details are available.

AESTHETIC CHARACTERISTICS:

The river side footpath is lined with trees and forms an attractive public area, with good views of the Permian rocks next to the path. There is graffiti in one place on the cliff.

ACCESS AND SAFETY:

Parking is available in the Wilderness car park at SE 404 480. The cliff starts beyond the car park beyond a small area of parkland. The riverside footpath is wide and safe, though sometimes muddy. The west end of the cliff is more overgrown than the central section, though there are still good views of the face.