

Cliffe Woods Park Quarry, Clayton West



STATUS: Local Geological Site
OTHER DESIGNATIONS:
COUNTY: West Yorkshire
DISTRICT: Kirklees
OS GRID REFERENCE SE 257 105
OS 1:50,000 Landranger 110 Sheffield and Huddersfield
OS 1:25,000 Explorer 288 Bradford and Huddersfield
BGS 1:50,000 Sheet 86 Glossop
FIRST DESIGNATED by West Yorkshire Geology Trust in 2012
DATE OF MOST RECENT SURVEY West Yorkshire Geology Trust in May 2012
DESIGNATION SHEET UPDATED October 2012

SITE DESCRIPTION:

The present quarry face is about 4m high and runs north-south continues for 50m. The face is accessible at the base all the way along, though there is some undergrowth in places.

These rocks belong to the Lower Coal Measures (Langsettian) and are of Upper Carboniferous age. The sandstones and siltstones lie directly below the Blocking (Silkstone) Coal.

The rocks are fine-grained sandstones interbedded with siltstones. The sandstone beds are 10 to 40cm thick, with internal flaggy bedding 2/3cm thick in places, while the siltstone beds are 20cm or less thick. Some siltstone beds wedge out laterally.

The fine-grained sandstones show very clear sedimentary features which indicate their deposition environment. There is ripple bedding in the sandstones, with soft sediment distortion of beds in evidence. At the base of some larger sandstone beds, curved load casts project into siltstone beds below.

HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS:

A small quarry is shown on the 1854 OS map, close to the present site. There is also a coal pit marked on the map, probably sited where the present bowling green is found. Since then, the quarry has been extended to the south, as far as the footpath which crosses Cliffe Wood.

EDUCATIONAL VALUE:

This is an interesting exposure showing very fine sedimentary features and would therefore be of interest to educational groups, though the space along the quarry face is somewhat confined by trees and undergrowth.

AESTHETIC CHARACTERISTICS:

ACCESS:

Cliffe Street lies off Chapel Hill in Clayton West. At the south end of Cliffe Street is a small car park opposite Clayton West Bowling Club. The old quarry face is visible on the east side of the bowling club, though it is largely overgrown. The accessible quarry face can be found to the east of the footpath as it runs into the woodlands.