
Spireslack Locality 12: Sedimentary section through Limestone Coal Formation

NGR: [274979 630606]–[274930 630564]

Key category of interest	Rarity	Quality
1. Sedimentary rocks	4	5
2. Palaeontology	3	3

Access: Good access to base of exposure, easily accessible from roadway.

Current safety: Uneven surfaces, potentially loose large blocks at top of exposure may pose hazard.

Measures to enhance site: Assess large blocks from above exposure, and assess any remedial measures necessary. Clean surface to enhance sedimentary structures.

Key categories in order of interest (1 = primary interest); Rarity, 5 = only example in Spireslack, 1 = many examples in Spireslack; Quality 5 = exceptional preservation in Spireslack, easy access/viewing potential 1 = average preservation in Spireslack, difficult access/viewing potential

Photograph overview with polygon boundary

(Overview of Locality 12). Site boundary includes key rock exposures and immediate access to site. Photo looking south toward the scarp, whilst standing at base of lower void.

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Site description

Geology

A rare chance within the Spireslack void for an apparently safe, in situ sedimentary sequence to be examined is the focus of this locality. A 5 m section through part of the Limestone Coal Formation allows hands on access to a coarsening upwards sequence of sandstones, mudstone, siltstones, representing a deltaic environment. The sandstone in the section displays a distinct two tone appearance, a characteristic also observed in a sandstone higher in the sequence — the latter unit is traceable across the length of the scarp, and acts as a key marker bed when following the sequence across faults. The sedimentary rocks contain abundant bioturbation, crinoid fragments and organic remains.

Access and enhancement suggestions

There is good access to the section, but by providing a level base to view the sequence this would improve access, and cleaning the rock face would assist in the understanding of the depositional environment of these sedimentary rocks.

Site photographs

(Spireslack_12 P1): Section of Limestone Coal Formation, showing a 5 metre coarsening upward sequence through mudstones to sandstones. © BGS, NERC.

(Spireslack_12 P2): Crinoid fragments are abundant within the sandstone. © BGS, NERC.

[References](#)



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(Spireslack_12 P1) Section of Limestone Coal Formation, showing a 5 metre coarsening upward sequence through mudstones to sandstones. © BGS, NERC.



(Spireslack_12 P2) Crinoid fragments are abundant within the sandstone. © BGS, NERC.