

Cumbria RIGS Group

Cumbria RIGS Group is a voluntary geological conservation group working to record and look after important geological sites.



<http://cumbriarigs.co.uk>

Far ARNSIDE RIGS

Far Arnside Coral Bed

One of the most rare and important local geological exposures is on the western side of the beach at Far Arnside. Here the Lower Carboniferous limestones are seen. A smooth bed of upper Dalton Limestone was exposed in 2000 when the salt marsh was eroded by the River Kent channel. This surface is called a 'marine peneplaned hard-ground' it was eroded by coarse calcareous sands shortly after the sediment became lithified (became solid rock). This scouring action cross-sectioned the bedrock and has produced a near polished surface that now displays many perfectly preserved fossil corals. This exposure provides a unique opportunity to examine perfectly cross-sectioned rugose (wrinkled) corals.

Far Arnside Fault

The Far Arnside Fault can be seen in the headland near the eastern side of the beach. There are two fault planes running through it with Urswick Limestone exposed on the seaward side and older Dalton Limestone on the landward side. The movement on this fault is about 150 metres.



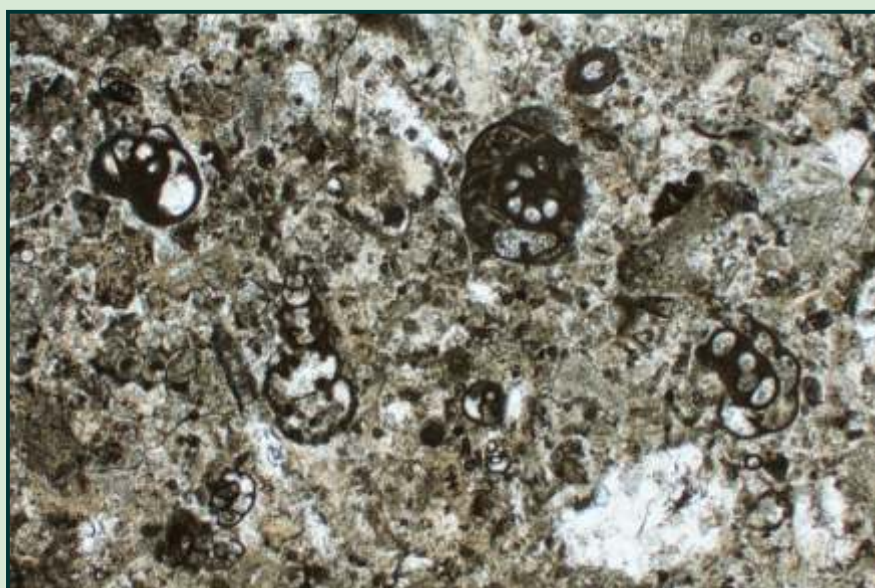
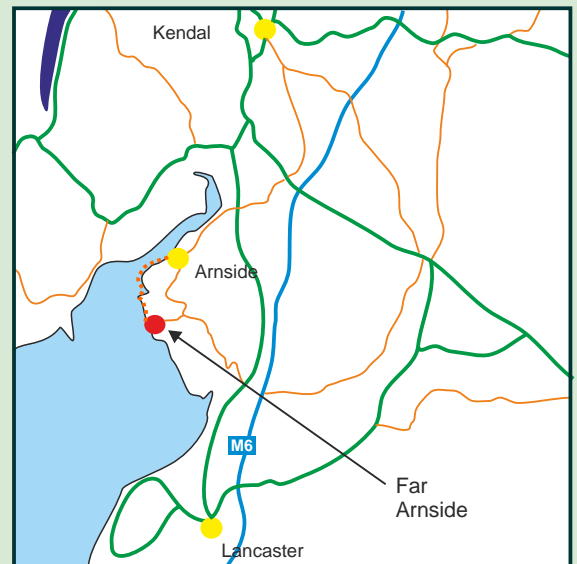
A large *Siphonophyllia sp.* coral on the 'Far Arnside Coral Bed'.

Please do not attempt to remove these fossils, they are for everyone to study.



A second *Siphonophyllia sp.* coral on the 'Far Arnside Coral Bed'.

To get to Far Arnside it is recommended that visitors park in Arnside and take the shoreline path to the site at grid reference SD 448763.



A cross-section of Dalton Limestone taken from Far Arnside and shows a number of foraminifera fossils.