

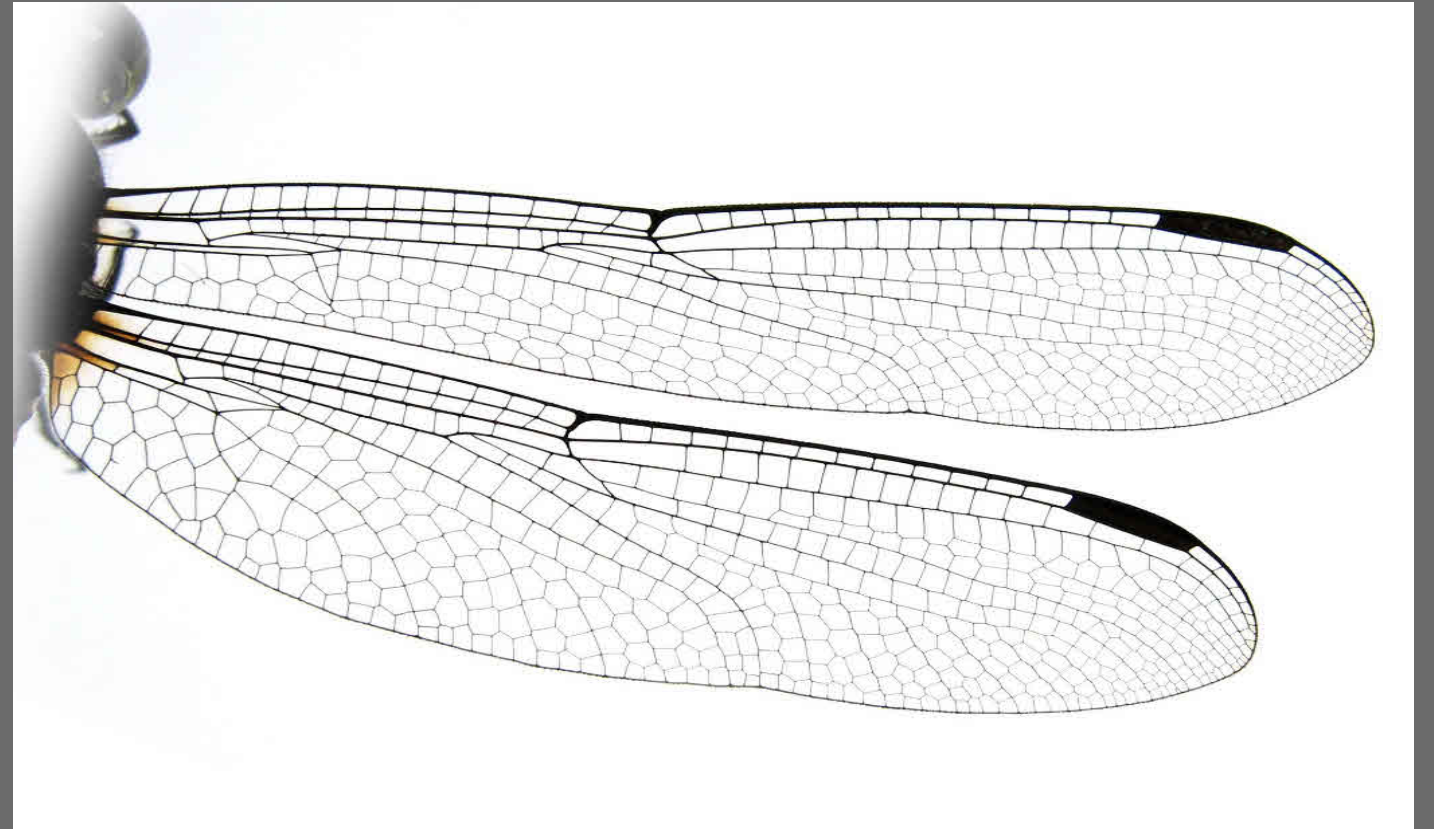
Images from; and 'Trinity' ideas inspired by;- Lee Quarry, Stacksteads, Lancashire.





# ‘Trinity’

## Lee quarry - Artwork commission



## Introduction

In autumn 2008 I was awarded the commission by Mid Pennine Arts to create artworks for Lee Quarry in Rossendale, Lancashire. The Artwork Commission was one of several activities organised as part of the Valley of Stone Project; supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund. For further information see the website <http://www.valleyofstone.org.uk>

This collection of notes and images is a record of the development of the artworks ;from my first visit; to the installation of ‘Fractured Frond’; Ferroterrasaurus and finally Echofly in March 2010.

The collection is intended to show the progression of the project. The ideas behind the designs the materials and processes used and the marvelous people and places that informed the final installed Artworks. This work would not have been possible without the local people and schools who helped evolve the designs and create the mosaics. The project also benefited from input from more diverse specialists including a Marine Engineer, Korean Physicists a Preston scuba diver and an international trials rider native to Rossendale.

It is a project I have enjoyed working on enormously. The dramatic landscape and positive support throughout has made this project a real pleasure - A massive thank you to everybody involved .

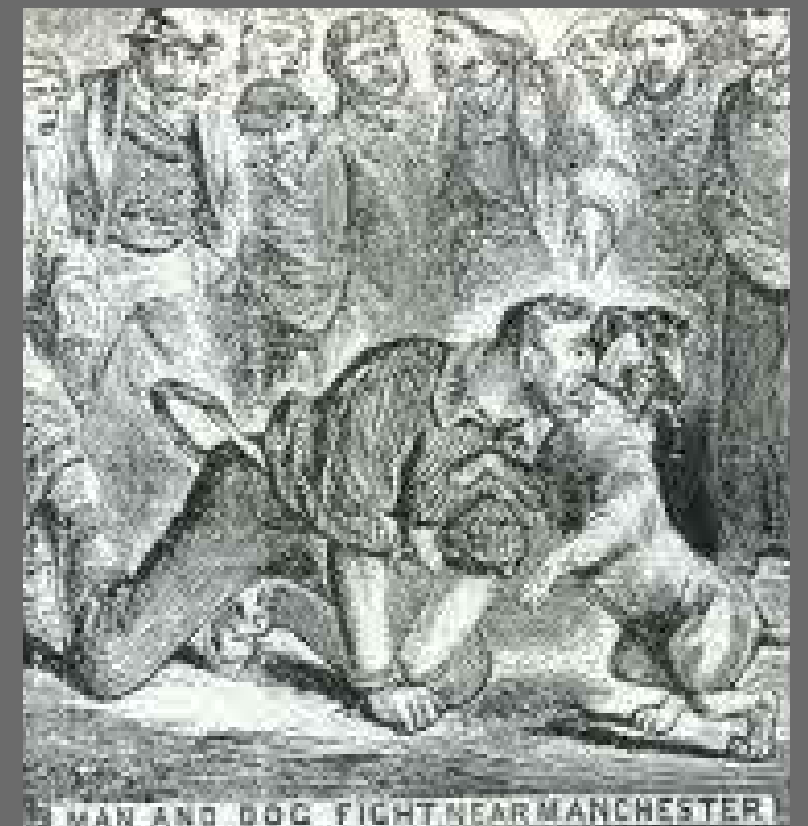
Robin Dobson - Sculptor





### "Bury Bob"

One quarryman Robert Hamer known as "Bury Bob" is reputed to have **fought a Bull dog called Joe with his hands tied behind his back** in a pub in Blackwood and won. Picture above is from the Illustrated Police News 1881 postal address of Stacksteads at the time was "near Manchester". With no shortage of drinking establishments the local newspaper was often full of drunken Quarrymen who had appeared before the magistrates at the Bacup Court House



## History and Overview

The spectacular landscape of Lee Quarry was created by the demand for building stone throughout the 19th and late into the 20th century. The quarry provided labour for tough local people who toiled in harsh conditions splitting the rock from the hillside. Lee Quarry was one of many similar sites scattered throughout Rossendale and it is this human intervention that has created the spectacular landscape we see today. Lee Quarry shut down decades ago; leaving only a few derelict buildings and various industrial detritus to show its industrial heritage.

Today the value of the area has been recognised and measures are being taken to preserve its history as well as building on the legacy and landscape to open up the stunning landscape for more people. The Valley of Stone Project was set up to preserve the history of the area and to create a website as a portal for further information.

<http://www.valleyofstone.org.uk>

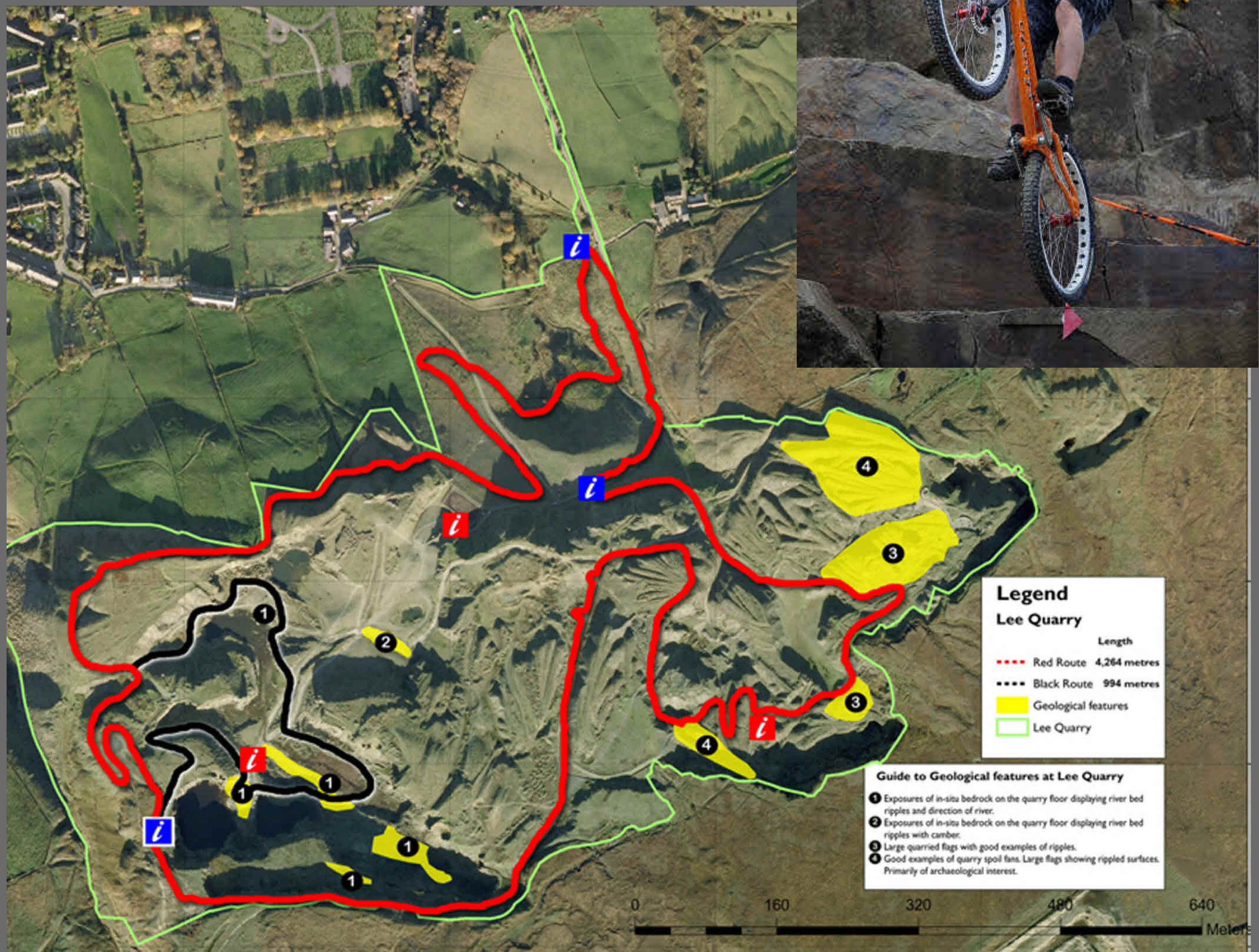




# Lee Quarry's future

The spectacular landscape has always been enjoyed by dog walkers, birdwatchers, hikers and recently funds were made available to invest in its future by creating new interest in the form of designed mountain biking trails and trials obstacles. The quarry is an extension of the Pennine Lancashire Adrenaline Gateway ( <http://adrenaline-gateway.co.uk/aboutus.aspx>).

More recently international mountain biking events have been organised on the site, drawing thousands of people to the area from all across the UK and overseas.





# Lee Quarry - First impressions

My initial impressions of Lee Quarry was how well hidden it was and its vast size.

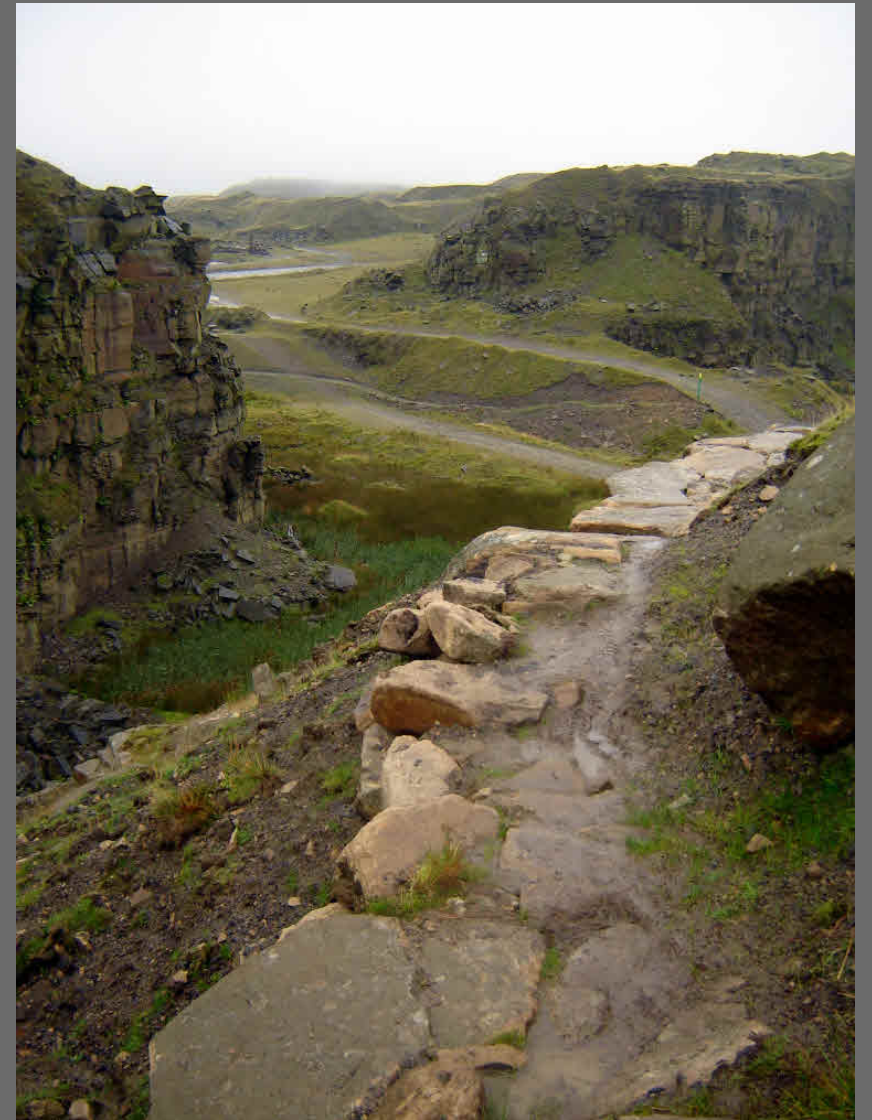
After spending some time exploring the site I chose three contrasting environments to showcase the elemental raw materials that defined the quarry landscape earth, air and water,

For the first artwork I wanted to raise Lee Quarry's presence from Stacksteads and decided on a location on the skyline which would be visible from the main road. I wanted something bold on the horizon, which would reveal more on closer inspection, encouraging people to explore the site.

The second location was a landscaped earth bank approaching the trials obstacles area. For sometime I had wanted to create a dynamic rideable sculpture and this was the ideal opportunity-with a stunning panoramic backdrop as a bonus.!

The final location was the last of three pools surrounded by tall quarried rock faces. It was a very beautiful location with a tranquil atmosphere which turned out to be by far the most the most demanding site of them all.

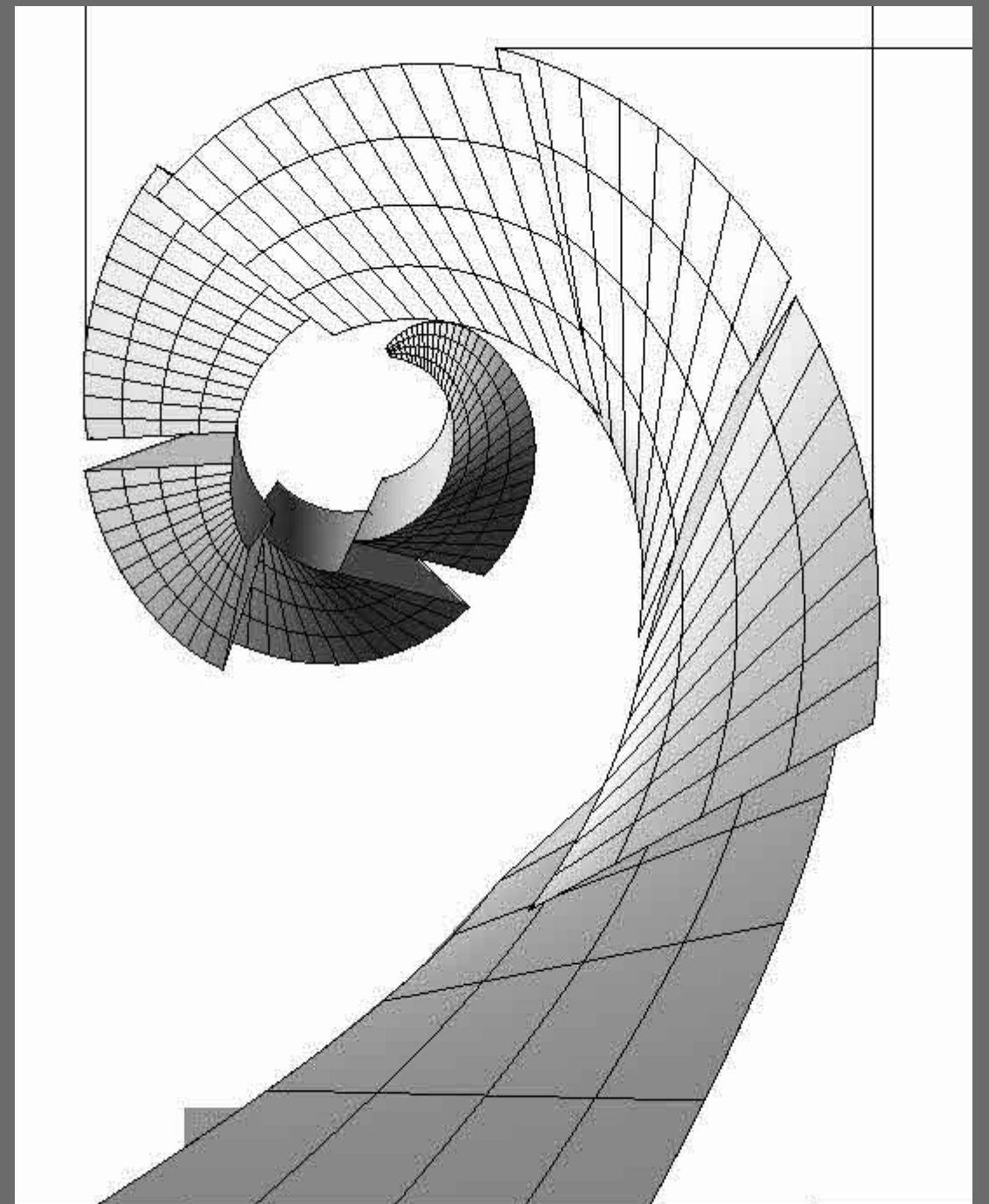
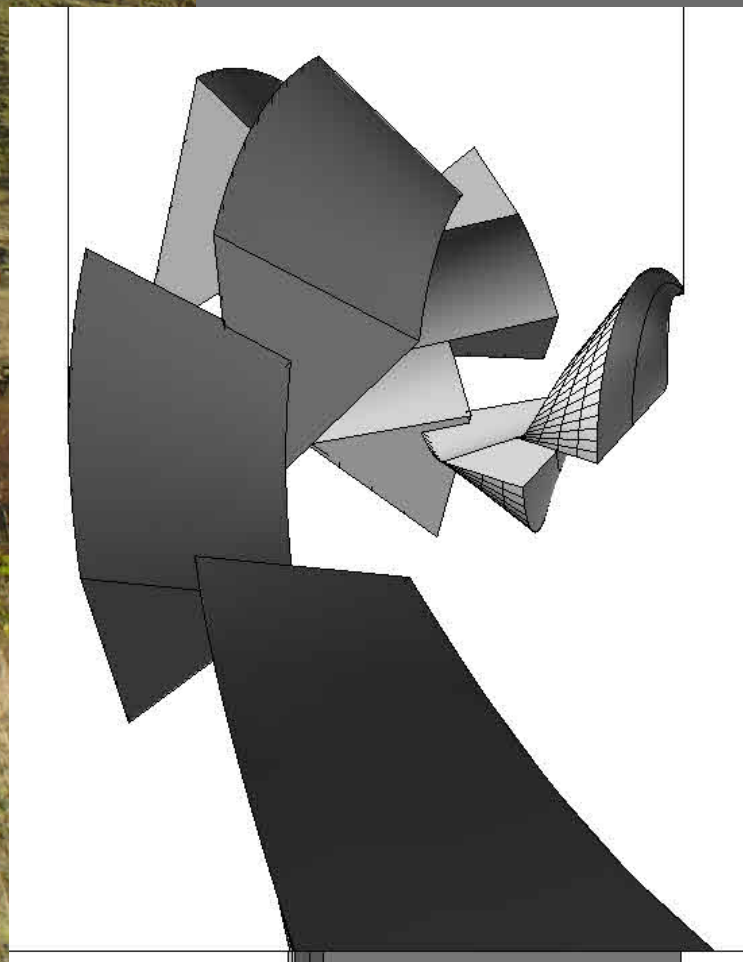
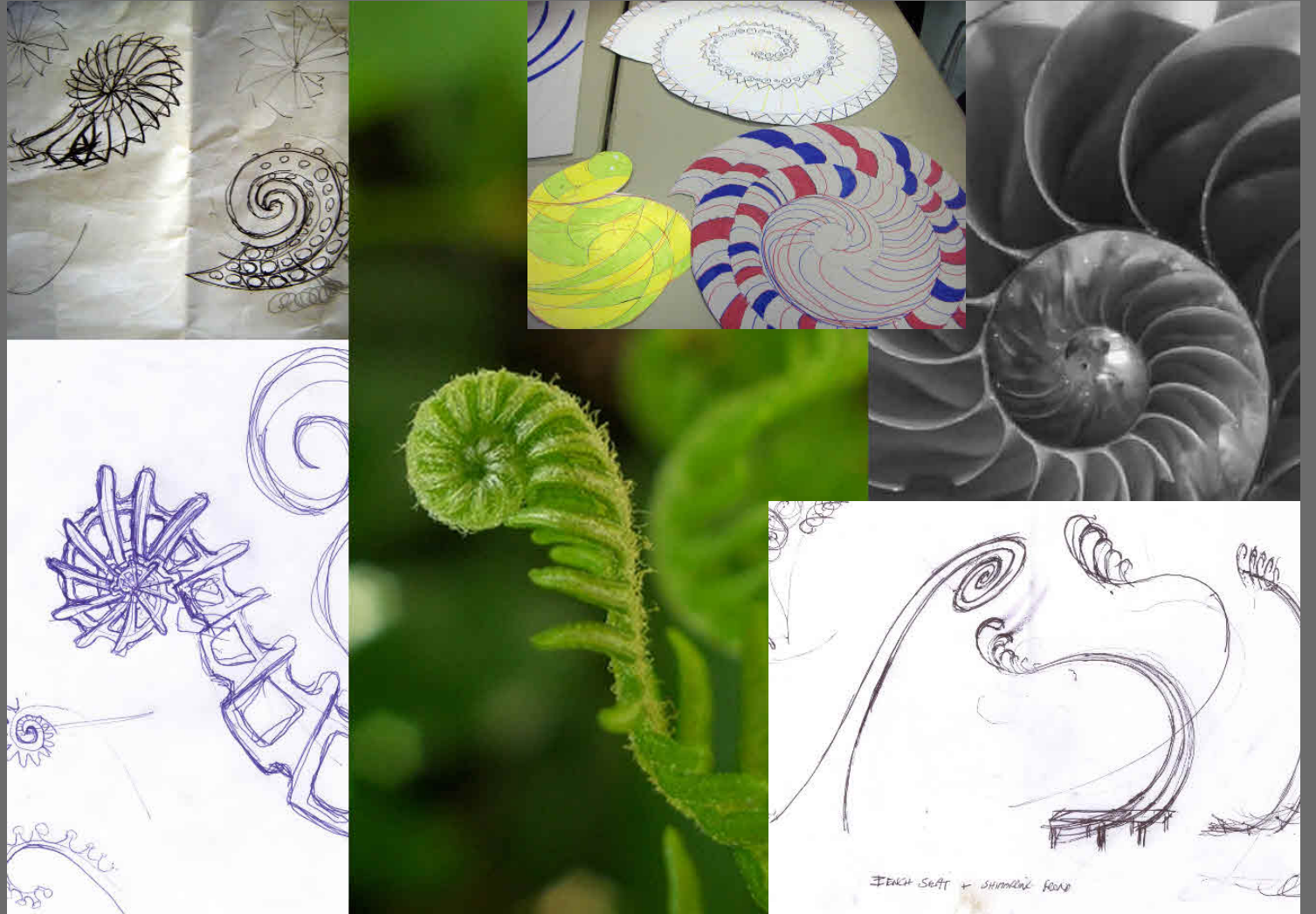
The Lee Quarry site has a harsh dramatic beauty without any artistic intervention. This imparted a balancing act to the project. Bold dynamic artworks would add value to the landscape, but the designs needed to be sympathetic to the elemental rawness of the environment. From here a theme was emerging. The artworks would be tightly linked to the landscape; with each piece suggesting a strange artifact unearthed from within it.





# Fractured Frond

The form of 'Fractured Frond' was suggested by the transformation of fern fronds and fossils, into a fragmented mineral form uncovered by the passage of time. A bold frond form positioned on the skyline acts as a landmark when seen from the main road through Stacksteads; but with closer inspection and viewed in the round; its form fragments into gravity-defying floating rocks. On closer inspection one witnesses extraordinary mosaics, created in a series of workshops with pupils from Holy Trinity Primary School, Stacksteads





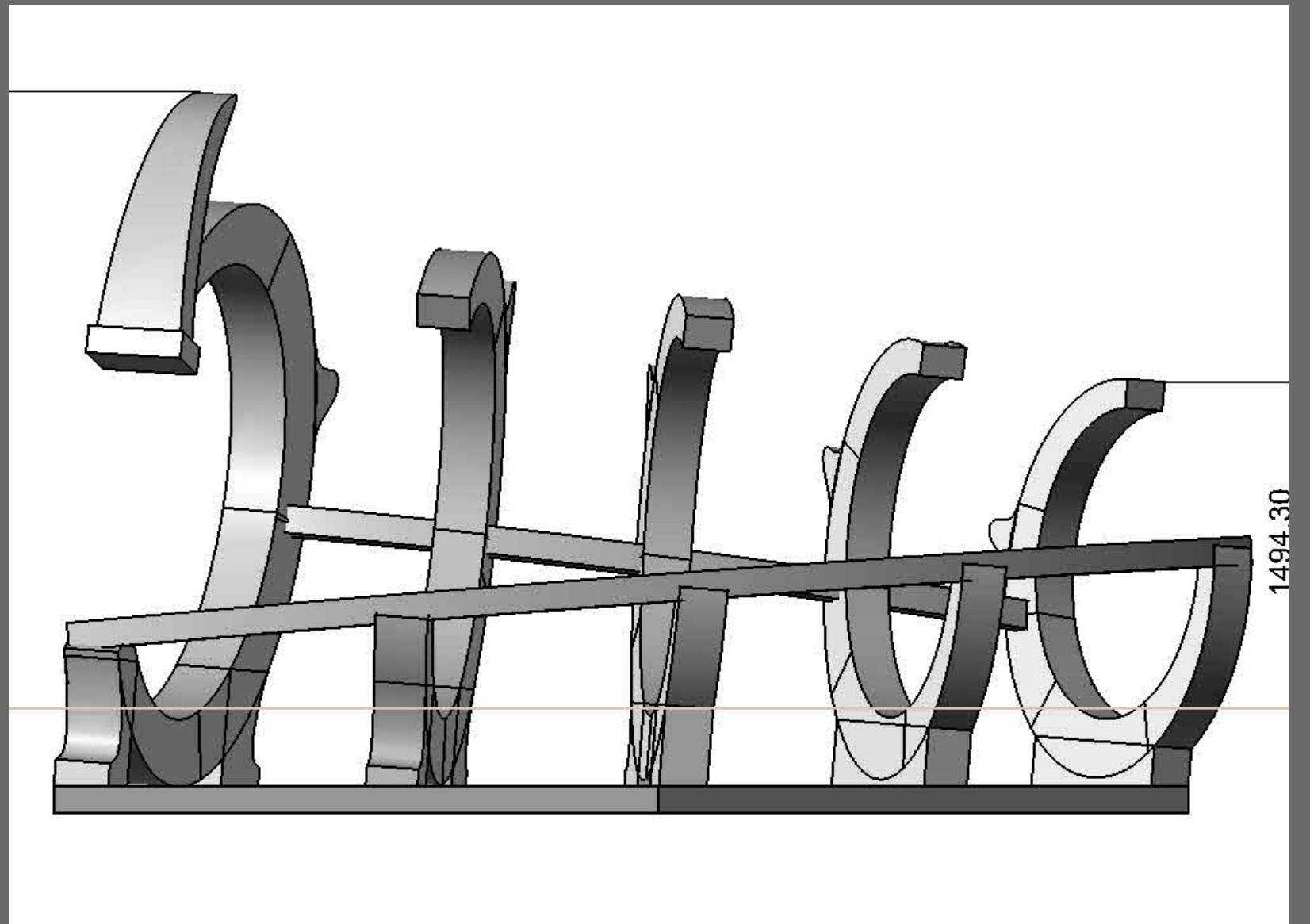
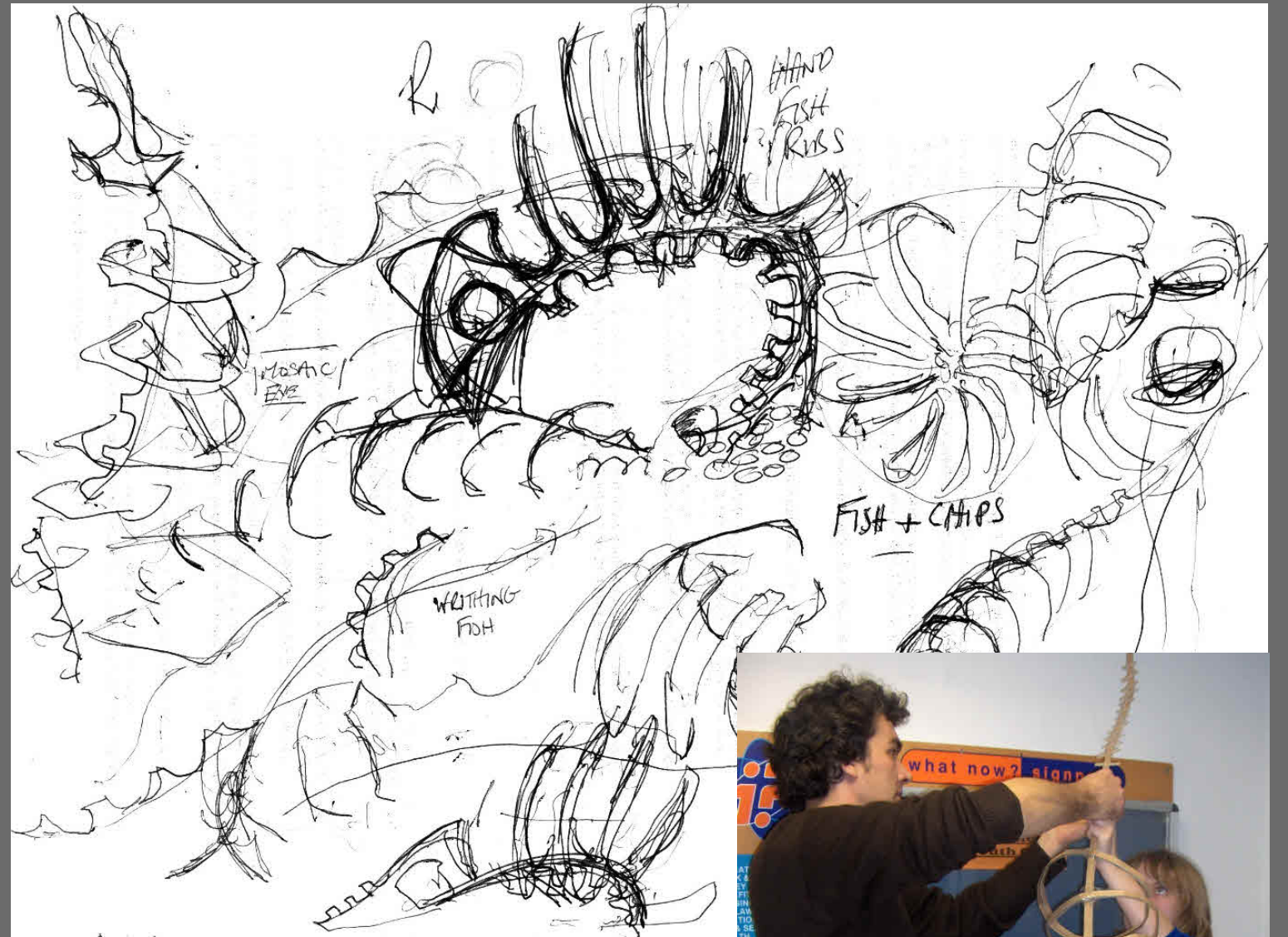
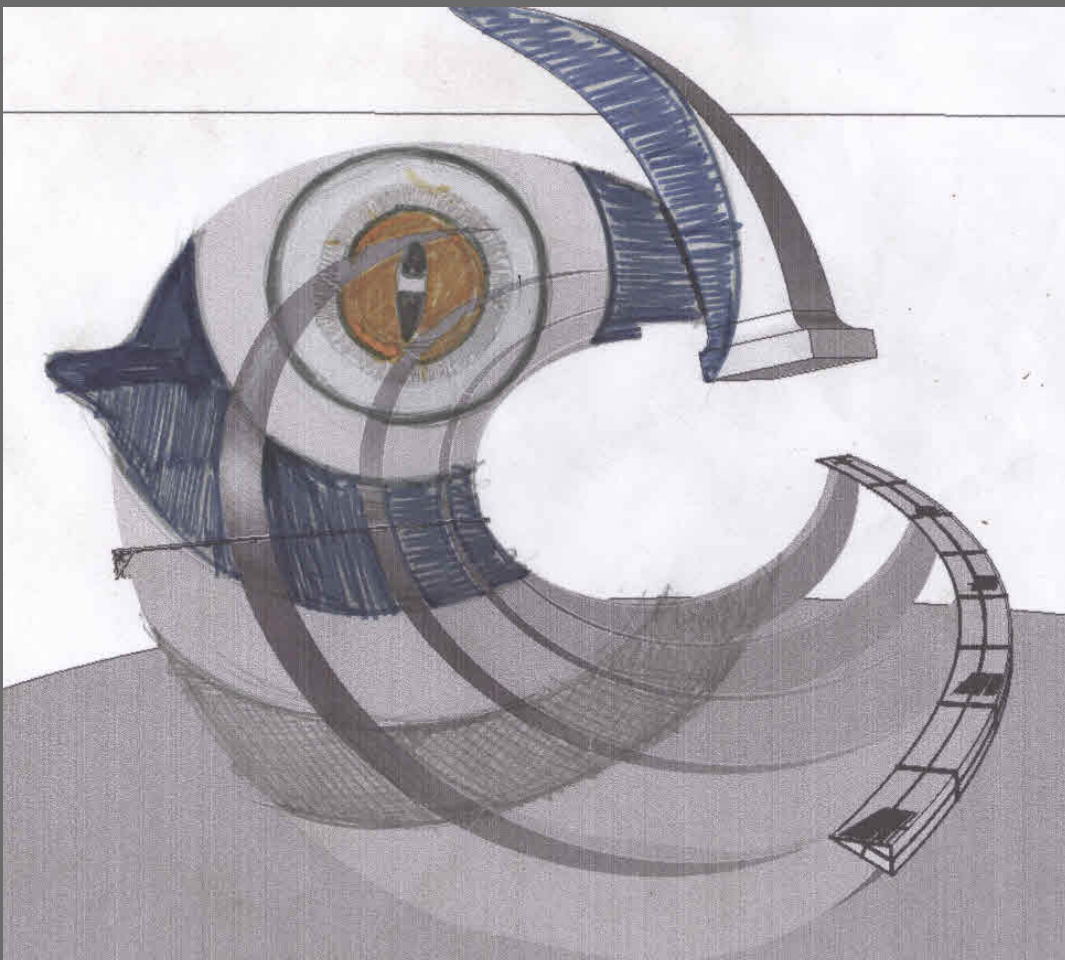




# Ferroterrasaurus

Ferroterrasaurus is found at the beginning of the Trials Area, announcing the new developments at Lee Quarry. Inspired by fossilised tools and cycle cogs. The design was developed further after discussions with local international trials rider Alastair Clarkson. The climb up the ribs of this partially buried beast to the top of the Hammer represents a tough challenge for even the most accomplished riders.

The form was enhanced with painted detailing developed with the children from 515 Youth Group, Whitworth. This suggests a strange fanged beast when viewed against the panorama of the Bacup skyline.

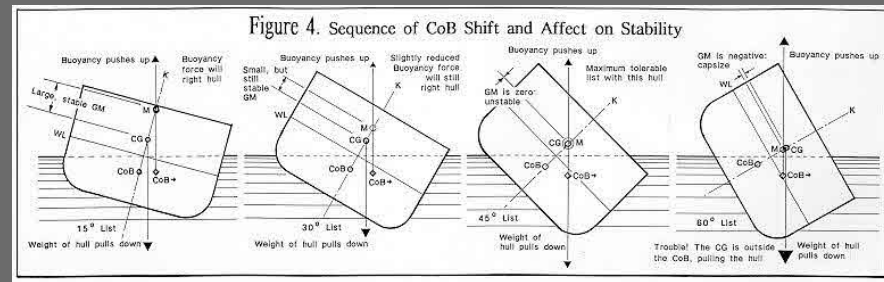








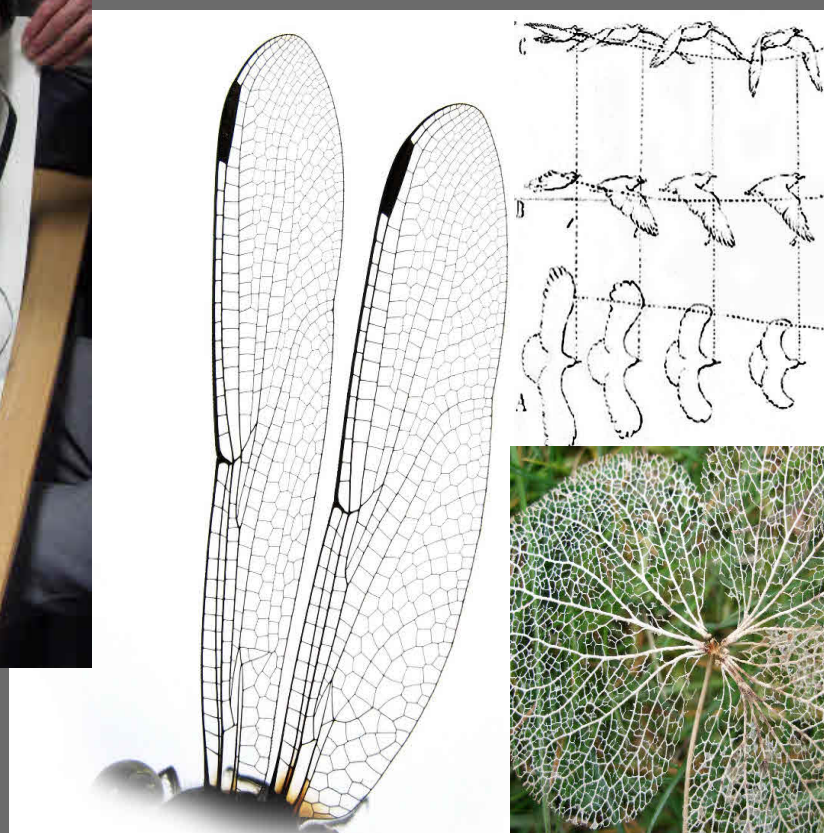
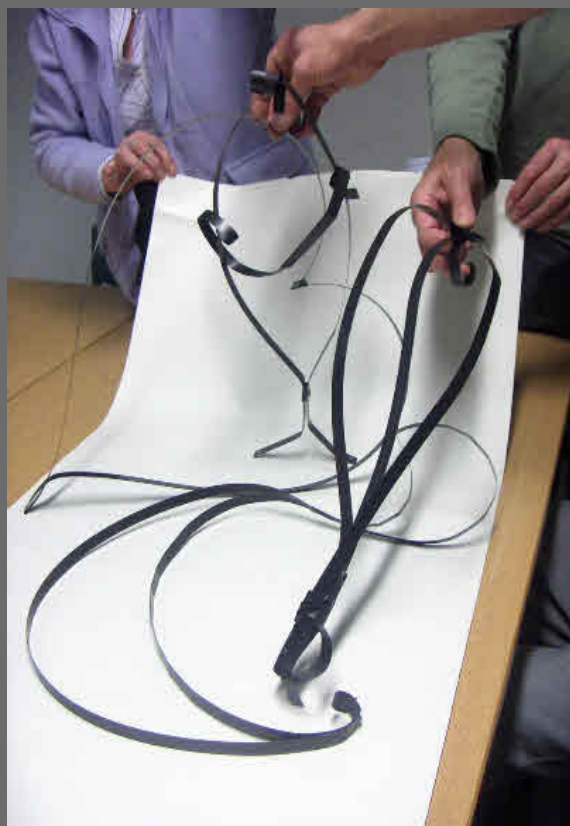
# Echofly



Echofly is inspired by the dragonflies which inhabit the pools in Lee quarry-adding movement, delicacy and colour to this ruggedly beautiful location. The concept evolved further after discussions with local ramblers who expressed an interest in an artwork which would interact with wind and water movement. Thus I designed an interactive piece which would create delicate shifts in motion from the wing structures and present an ever-changing display.

With the Echofly aspiration fully formed all I had to do was make it. A wheel actuator mechanism on the shore would allow the public intuitive interaction. Amazingly the project developed a momentum of its own which many skilled professionals became involved with through interest alone. Echofly was developed through the help of a wide range of skilled professionals including Scientists at Hallam University in Sheffield who helped with the buoyancy calculations; a bespoke clockbuilder who provided valuable input with the actuator mechanism and pendulum motion of the wing structures. A marine engineer providing advice on fluid mechanics and even a Korean physicist who developed an interactive Computer simulation of the wave effect I was trying to create (<http://www.phy.ntnu.edu.tw/ntnujava/index.php?topic=1148.0>).

Various designs, models and tests were carried out to evolve the final design which was so experimental and subject to so many different variables that even on the day it was installed nobody was sure it would work. Echofly was a project based on scientific principles but was the product of a leap of faith by so many people eager for it to succeed.







Echofly was installed on 31/ 03/ 2010.

It was the last piece to be finished in this uniquely beautiful location and completed the ' Trinity ' artwork collection for Lee Quarry Lancashire.



## Thanks and acknowledgements

### Valley of Stone Partners

Helen Callaghan– Mid Pennine Arts  
 Dominic Cooper -Groundwork Pennine Lancashire  
 Arthur Baldwin -Groundwork Pennine Lancashire  
 Tony Lund – LCC,Rossendale

### Local People of Rossendale

Young Mountain Bikers -515 Youth Group, Whitworth  
 Local Walkers group -Maden Centre, Bacup  
 Holy Trinity Primary School, Stacksteads





# Valley Of Stone Project

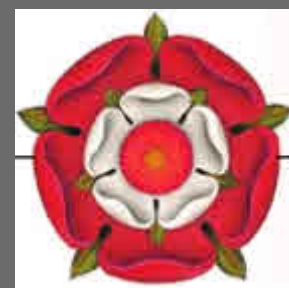
The Lee Quarry Artwork Commission was just one of many Public Involvement events organised by the Valley of Stone Project. The project included the preservation of key landmark buildings, restoration of paths, dry stone wall training, Oral History Project, Theatre Production, Visual art Exhibition and Information DVDs discovering and celebrating the Industrial history of Rossendale and its stunning landscape. The project was developed to preserve and promote Rossendale's rich past and to ensure its enjoyment in the future. The Valley of Stone Project is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and Lancashire County Council and is a Multi-Partnership Project - for further information see the website <http://www.valleyofstone.org.uk>



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