

OXON.

A. Hall & W.J. Kennedy, Proc Roy Soc (1967) B168, 377:-
Aragonite & calcite in fossils. Locs cited.

Aragomite

Oxon

Oxon

WALTON

Baryte

Oxon

Cassington Pit.

Barytocelestine

Oxon

Cassington Pit.

CALCITE

OXON

**Old Cement Works Quarry, Kirtlington
Cowley
Shotover Hill**

Chipping Norton ("Rock milk")
Summertown (Tufa)
Oxford
Hurst Hill,
Ammen
Oxon
Claydon
Cassington pit

Celestine

Oxon

Claydon

Cassington pit

Clinoptilolite

Oxon

Shillingford Bridge

GYPSUM

OXON

Charlton-on-Otmoor

Cumnor

Headington Hill

Shotover Hill

Sandford

Tiddington

Hurst Hill,

Cassington p/v

Wendlebury

Henlandite

Oxon

See clinophloolite

Iron minerals, misc.

~~OCHRE~~

OXON

Shotover Hill (Ochre)

PYRITE

OXON

Banbury

Cassington pit

QUARTZ

OXON

Cowley

Hurst Hill
Caversham

Strontianite

Oxon

Cassington Pit (new)

BANBURY, Oxon.

TMH (1868), 65: Pyrite, in Lias.

1" 145

SP 458 105

44 10 (I)

(I)

CASSINGTON PIT, Witney, Oxon.

Russ Soc NW Branch Newsletter 3 March 1993.

Gravel pit on Oxford Clay. Has
gypsum xls & septarian nodules
containing calcite & celestine.

24 July 1993 ARC Cassington Quarry,
near Oxford. RSN (1994) 24

This area is one of major geological importance because of the abundance of fossil animal and plant remains. A 5-6m bed of sands and gravels, dating from an interglacial period about 220,000 years ago, contains many of the fossils. This interglacial has only recently been recognised in Britain. Beneath the gravels lies the Jurassic Oxford Clay, used locally for brick-making. The clay contains septarian nodules which may be up to 1.5 metres in

diameter and are invariably very hard and resilient. The nodules contain calcite and celestine.

Because of its importance, the area is being painstakingly recorded as the excavations proceed. There will be a comprehensive publication of the data which will be available to us in due course.

Although the weather was somewhat inclement, about 20 members and guests refused to have their spirits dampened and kitted themselves out in wet-weather gear for the walk down into the pit. A representative selection of the fossil fauna of am-

monites, mammoth, bison, primitive horse, reindeer, fish and plants was found.

The celestine is a pale blue colour and generally totally fills the spaces in the nodules but there are occasional crystals. Any celestine is very hard won however, requiring the use of a large sledge hammer to break the nodules and then the careful use of a smaller hammer and chisel to remove an intact piece. With due care everybody managed to retrieve enough to keep themselves happy. In conclusion thanks are due to Mr R. Turner, manager of the quarry, and to the management of ARC for their willing help and courtesy which assured the success of the trip.

Eddy Foy

RSN (1997) 36. calcite,
celestine (blue to
pink-tinged)

ARC Cassington Pit, near Oxford [Grid
Ref: SP 458 105] - 24 September 1994

SB, Leader: Austin Lockwood ^{RSN (195)}
26

The news of the recent find of the fossilised remains of a pliosaur at Cassington Pit no doubt attracted the remarkable attendance of some 53 members of the Russell Society and their guests from the Sidcup Lapidary & Mineral Society and the Milton Keynes Geological Society. All three societies are affiliated to the Geologists' Association.

The manager of the quarry, Bob Turner, kindly showed a set of photographs of the find, which has been recovered by staff at Oxford University

Museum and had been reported in the national press. The site of the find was currently under some 3 metres of water but, fortunately for us, most of the extensive pits were readily accessible.

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Cont'd → (II)

CASSINGTON PIT, Witney, Oxon. (II)

Beneath the gravels lie the Jurassic Oxford Clay, at one time used locally for brick making. The clay contains septarian nodules which can be up to 1.5 metres in diameter and these contain calcite and celestine. The calcite is in a dog tooth crystal form and the celestine is a pale blue colour and generally totally fills the voids within the nodules, but there are occasional crystals. Any celestine is hard won, requiring the use of a large sledge hammer to break the nodules and then the careful use of a smaller hammer and chisel to extract an intact piece.

The fossil animal remains that have been found at Cassington comprise mammoth, bison, primitive horse and reindeer in addition to various species of fish and plants. The Oxford Clay yields gryphaea, belemnites and ammonites.

As is the custom in our Society, the members helped those less experienced by assisting them to find reasonable specimens, sharing their own finds and helping with identification.

Everyone found something of interest, be it mineral or fossil, and whilst nothing to equal the pliosaur was found, most people were well satisfied with their day's collecting. Several large pyritised ammonites, up to 25cm, were collected from the clay and these, when cleaned, will make very attractive specimens.

Whilst the day was overcast, no rain was experienced and the last members left the pit at 4.00pm via the track through the local farm, the use of which enabled us to stay after the quarry had closed. Our thanks are due to the farmer for allowing this facility and to Bob Turner and the management of ARC for their help and courtesy which ensured the success of the trip.

RSN(199) 34, 8. Calcite,
1cm yellow scaleno; blue
celestine; small groups
baryte xls on some celest.

RSN ('02) 40, 27. Visit (9/01). Gravels w.
water-worn corals, bones, overlying Jurassic
grey clays w. belemnites etc. e
modules, w. blue cellestine, calcite
baryte, barytocelestine. Good examples
found.

RSN ('03) 42, 28. Visit 31/8/02. Old pit now
closed - new pit on left-hand side
of road. SU 458104. Many
sept modules, most w. excellent
cellestine e calcite and white sprays
strontianite. Some vg brown calcite; the
cellest harder e more stable than before, one
like Madagascar! - A mammoth tusk also!!

SU 69. 75^u (or ⁷⁰³₇₅₀)

CAVERSHAM, (near Reading) Oxfordshire.

RSWB 1955. Quartz, small crystals
lining cavities in flints, in
chalk quarry in The Warren,
Caversham.

CHARLTON-on-OTMOOR, Oxon.

OUM: Selenite; transparent, from "near C-on-O".
Gypsum, var.

CHAWLEY BRICKWORKS, Oxford.

See HURST HILL

CHIPPING NORTON, Oxon.

SP 31 27

G & L (1858) Calcite var. "Rock milk"

CLAYDON, Oxon.

OUN: Calcite, with celestine, in Oxford Clay.

COWLEY, Oxford, Oxon.
See also OXFORD, etc.

OUM: Quartz, on calcite.

SP #6 04

CUMNOR Oxon.

See also OXFORD, etc.

GR: Selenite in mud-pools. (Gypsum)

GR, (1955) Some calcite in limestone exposure
at ROCKLEY QUARRY, by the side of
A 420, at Cumnor.

HEADINGTON HILL, Oxford, Oxon.
See also OXFORD, etc.

BM: Gypsum, var selenite

HURST HILL, Oxford, Oxon.
See also OXFORD, etc.

SP ~~4~~7 04

GR (1955) CHAWLEY BRICKWORKS (at SP ~~4~~7 04),
disused, now behind a timber yard. Gypsum
var. selenite xls up to 2 cm long (and
aggregates up to 5 cm across) from a
pool of grey plastic clay in S part of
the quarry.

NORTH SLOPE of HURST HILL (at SP 5 0).
Fossilif. Coral long exposed during excav's
for sewers at side of main ^{Swindon} road. Vughs
& fossil cavities lined with calcite xls
(sharp scalenohedra, & flat & acute rhombs).
Occas. v. clear colourless xls of quartz, also in
drusy crusts.

KIRTLINGTON, Oxon.

See OLD CEMENT WORKS QUARRY.

SP 49 19

OLD CEMENT WORKS QUARRY, Kirtlington, Oxon.

OUM (AWOK): v.g. calcite, large spec, coll. by AWOK

OXFORD, Oxon

SP 5 0

See also COWLEY; CUMNOR; HEADINGTON HILL;
HURST HILL; SANDFORD; SHOTOVER HILL; SUMMERSTOWN.

OS 2½ in map show SHEPHERD'S QUARRY (567088);
LYEHILL QUARRIES (ca 592068); HEADINGTON QUARRY
(5507).

Ge L (1858) Between the Isis & the Cherwell:
Calcite, var Rock milk. Tufa at
Summerstown

SANDFORD nr Oxford Oxon.
~~See also ~~oxford~~, etc~~ OXFORD, etc.

OUN: Selenite, in clay pits. (Gypsum)

GR (1955) Excavations for sewage works at
Sandford, ca at side of "Old Quarry"
on 2½ in map at 541019. has fossils; no mineeds

Su 59 92

SHILLINGFORD BRIDGE

Oxon
(e Berks)

J Brown, JA Catt, & AH Weir MM (1969) ³⁷480-8.

Clinophidolite-hurlandite in malmstone,
with micro-crystals in fossil cavities,
at Su 596 920

SHOTOVER HILL, Oxford, Oxon.
See also OXFORD, etc

TMH(1868) 65: In Colite & Kimm. Clay: Calcite; gypsum;
selenite; yellow ochre.

G & L (1858). Gypsum in the clay, in very large,
perfect, detached, transparent greyish-white
xls up to 1 or 2 lbs. Small xls occur
here in fossil oyster shells.

SUMMERSTOWN, Oxford, Oxon.
See also OXFORD, etc.

SP 50 08

GEL(1858): Calcite - tufa

SP 64 04

TIDDINGTON, Oxon.

OUN: Selenite. (gypsum)

1" 145

SP 56 19

WENDLEBURY, Bicester, Oxon.

RSN (1997) 30, 18. A borrow-pit for road construction. gypsum ("selenite") crystals from the horizon at the top of the Oxford clay.