

DORSET LOCAL GEOLOGICAL SITES SURVEY

Site number G ST72/11

Site name Stour Provost farm quarry

Summary description

Jurassic, Corallian, Todber Freestone

A 30m long section, 2m high of yellow oolitic limestones, with silty clay interbeds. Contains occasional broken bivalves. The section has weathered for many years and shows bedding and jointing very clearly. This provides a good, clean, accessible section of a limestone which was formerly used as building stone in North Dorset. It is therefore of historical as well as geological interest to educational groups studying sedimentary geology and/or architecture and historic buildings.

Site description

Jurassic, Corallian, Todber Freestone, Trigonina Clavellata Beds

When surveyed in 1984 and 1996 this quarry was disused, and showed a 30m long section, 2m high of yellow oolitic limestones, with silty clay interbeds. Contains occasional broken bivalves. The section has weathered for many years and shows bedding and jointing very clearly. The best exposure was on the north side of the field. The face extended for around 100 metres in length and up to about 2 metres in height.

The quarry is in Corallian oolitic limestone with more massive limestone below and more thinly bedded and jointed limestone above. There is some evidence of trace fossil burrows in the lower units. The upper part becomes much more fossiliferous particularly close to the NE corner. There are good sections through gastropods and bivalves and the sections are etched out on more weathered surfaces.

In December 2012 the farmer has re-opened the quarry in order to provide roadstone on his farm.

6.12.2012. Excavation in progress. Small upper exposure measured and photographed, in cloudy and icy conditions, The excavation is continuing at least twice as deep as this face, but the excavator was working. DIGS will request a further visit when the excavator has finished. Recommend leaving one face clear for study. JT/AH/PB

15cm	Shelly, crystalline limestone with occasional smudges of orange micrite.
20cm	Brown clay
40cm	Hard oosparite limestone
4cm	Thin clay parting
25cm	Oolitic limestone
50cm	Oolitic limestone, harder than above, including shell fragments.
15cm	Soft oolitic limestone, oomicrite.