

DORSET LOCAL GEOLOGICAL SITES SURVEY

Site number G SY97/14

Site name Queensground quarry, Acton

Summary description

Lower Cretaceous, Purbeck Limestone Group, Durlston Formation.

This quarry provides a vital link in the sequence of quarries and outcrops of the Purbeck Limestone Group, from Durlston Bay in the east to Worbarrow Tout in the west. The beds dug at Queensground include the Laning Vein at the top of the section, containing dinosaur footprints, a deep section of blue-grey shale with gypsum crystals, the Rag, Grub, Roach, Thornback, Wetston Bed and Freestone at the base of the quarry. Structural features such as local folding could be seen as work proceeded. Now that work has been completed the quarry has been partially infilled, leaving the northern and eastern faces accessible down the slope of the infill.

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Most quarries are infilled as work proceeds across the outcrop, and therefore this open quarry is extremely important for future scientific research. As part of the Purbeck Keystone Project in 2006 P.C. Ensom drew a lithostratigraphic section at SY99626 77674, which has been published in the Dorset Proceedings.

Ensom P.C. 2009: Lithostratigraphic section through the Purbeck Limestone Group. Dorset Proceedings, vol. 131.