

## DORSET LOCAL GEOLOGICAL SITES SURVEY

Site number G SY97/11

Site name St. Aldhelm's Head quarry

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### Summary Description

#### **Jurassic, Portland Limestone Formation, Freestone Series.**

The beds exposed in this working quarry are the Shrimp Bed, in which crustaceans have been found; the Spangle in which bivalve and gastropod fossils have been replaced by calcite crystals; the Blue Bed containing a rich ammonite fauna; and the Pond Freestone. Both the Spangle and the Pond Freestone are building stones used in Dorset and further afield. This is the only working quarry where these two building stones can be obtained for restoration work on historic buildings.

### Site description

#### **Jurassic, Portland Limestone Formation, Freestone Series.**

Portland Freestone Series (Winspit Member of Townson). The beds exposed in this working quarry are the Shrimp Bed, in which crustaceans have been found, about 3m thick, a biomicrite with an abundance of articulated bivalves; the Spangle in which bivalve and gastropod fossils have been replaced by calcite crystals; the Blue Bed (Titanites Bed) a very shelly biomicrite containing a rich ammonite fauna, and larger bivalves replaced by crystalline calcite; and the Pond Freestone. There are some isolated cherts incorporated in the base of the Pond Freestone. The floor is based on a chert vein, the Lusty Bed. Both the Spangle and the Pond Freestone are building stones used in Dorset and further afield. This is the only working quarry where these stones are available for restoration work on historic building.

Capping the sequence are the Lower Purbeck Beds, up to 2m thick.

### Published references:

Townson W.G. 1975: Lithostratigraphy and deposition of the type Portlandian. *Journal of the Geological Society of London*, vol. 131.