

Claydon; Church Lane quarry, east face – belemnites

In the earlier part of the 20th Century geological literature recorded the Gipping valley Chalk as showing *Belemnitella mucronata* zone Chalk resting on *Actinocamax quadratus* zone Chalk (with *A. quadratus* and *A. granulatus*). However, excavations at Church Lane, Claydon were to show, on the east face (higher up the hillside), chalk with *Goniot euthis* (= *Actinocamax*) quadrata (having a square – four grooved – opening at the anterior end of the guard (shell) overlying chalk with *Belemnitella* (with a round opening). I discussed this with Dr Jake Hancock of Kings College, London on December 6th, 1960 and he informed me that these *Belemnitella* were *B. praecursor*, not the later *B. mucronata* (which zone thus does not occur in the Gipping Valley). This east face also showed flint bands at 5 feet (sporadic flints), 8 feet 10 inches, 13 feet 2 inches and 14 feet 8 inches below the top of the quarry. This face, (now fenced off) may be viewed from Fir Tree Lane, 'Claydon Downs' housing development within the former quarry. (The west face, lower down the hill, is no longer, but showed chalk with *Belemnitella praecursor* overlying chalk with a *Goniot euthis* with imperfect calcification of the anterior end of the guard – *G. granulata*?).

Further reading:

Markham R 1967. 'Fossils from the Gipping Valley Chalk, and a note on the Zones.' Bulletin Ipswich Geological Group no.2, pp 3,4.

Leader M R 1969. 'The Systematics of *Belemnitella praecursor* Stolley, and its distinction from *Belemnitella mucronata senior* Schlotheim 1813.' Proc. Geol. Assoc. vol 100, pp1-4.

Hancock J M 1989. 'The occurrence of *Belemnitella praecursor* in the British Isles.' Proc. Geol. Assoc. vol 100, pp 565-594.

Woods M A, Wood C J, Wilkinson I P, Wright T N 2007. 'The stratigraphy of the Chalk Group (Upper Cretaceous) of the Gipping Valley, near Ipswich, Suffolk, UK.' Proc. Geol. Assoc. vol 118, pp 347-363.

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