

# Abbey Wood Fossils

Abbey Wood is a geological locality situated in a park in south-east London.

It is famous, world-wide, for its fossil sharks' teeth and shells.

It was first mentioned in 1872 by William Whitaker of the British Geological Survey, who found sharks' teeth in the rabbit holes.



# What is Abbey Wood?

The Abbey Wood Shell Bed is an ancient shell-bank, a mixture of sand, shells and round black flint pebbles.

It was laid down in a shallow tropical sea, close to the shore, about 54.5 million years ago.

It contains a mixture of freshwater, estuarine and marine shells, as well as sharks' teeth, fish, crocodile, and turtle bones and rare mammal teeth.



# How this works



Picture of real specimens imaged on a flat bed scanner.

A white line between specimens means that there are two views of the same fossil.

5mm

Scale Bars - 5mm in Green - 1cm - in Orange.

*Angel Shark*

Common (vernacular) name - in Yellow.

*Squatina prima*

Scientific (Latin) name - in Green.

Teeth & vertebrae

Part of animal - where not obvious - in Purple.



Reconstruction of the living animal.

# Sharks' Teeth



Sand shark  
*Striatolamia macrota*



Sand shark  
*Sylvestrilamia teretidens*



# Shark Remains



Sand shark  
*Gluekmanotodus heinzelini*



Sand shark  
*Jaekelotodus robustus*



Shark vertebra



# Shark and Rabbit Fish Teeth



1cm

Sand shark  
*Palaeohypotodus  
rutoti*

1cm



Rabbit fish or Chimaeroid  
*Amylodon eocaena*  
Lower plate



1cm

Rabbit fish or Chimaeroid  
*Elasmodus hunteri*  
Upper anterior plate



# Ray Remains



Guitar fish

*Hypolophodon sylvestris*

Dermal denticles (top) & teeth

Angel Shark

*Squatina prima*

Teeth & vertebrae

# Bony Fish Remains



1cm

Extinct wrasse  
*Phyllodus toliapicus*  
Upper palate



1cm

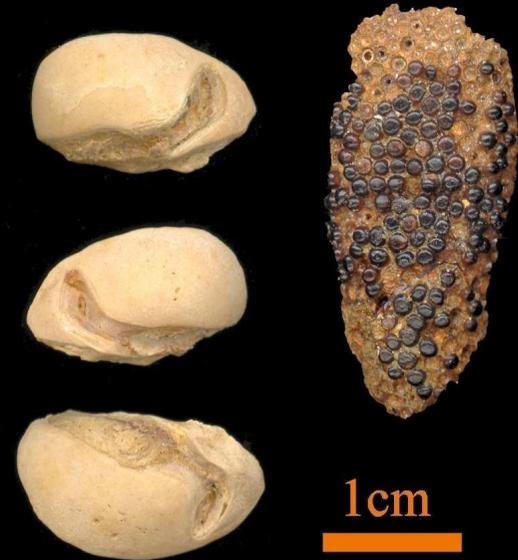
Gar pike  
*Lepisosteus suessionensis*  
Teeth, scale & vertebrae



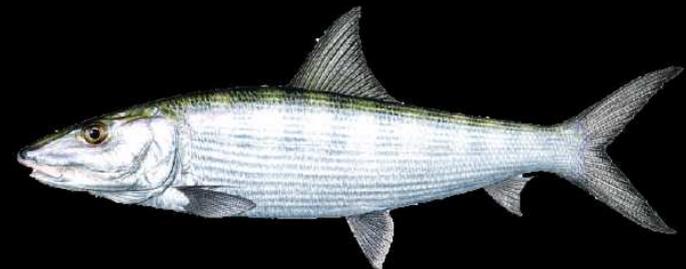
# Bony Fish Remains



Sturgeon  
*Acipenser toliapicus*  
Dermal scute



Lady fish  
*Albula epsi*  
Otoliths (ear stones) & upper palate



# Bony Fish Remains



1cm



Bowfin  
*Amia barroisi*  
Lower jaws



1cm



Extinct wrasse  
*Diaphyodus sauvagi*  
Paired upper and  
lower palates

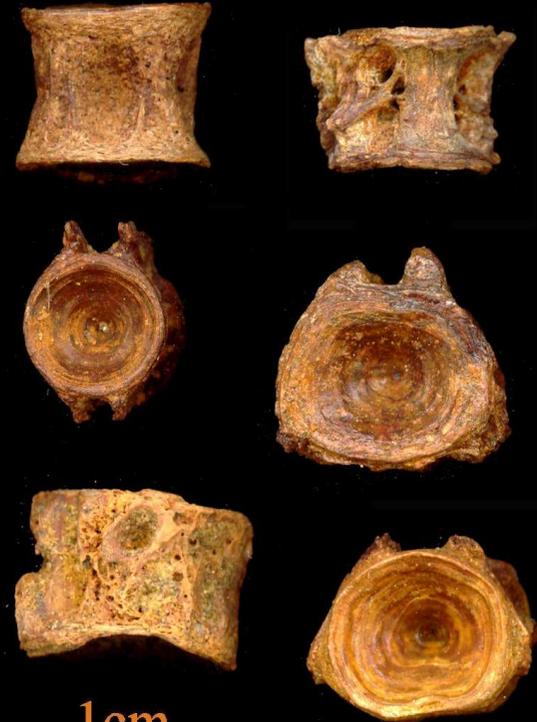


# Bony Fish Remains



1cm

Barracuda  
*Pelamys palaeocenica*  
dentary (lower jaw) and  
quadrate bone

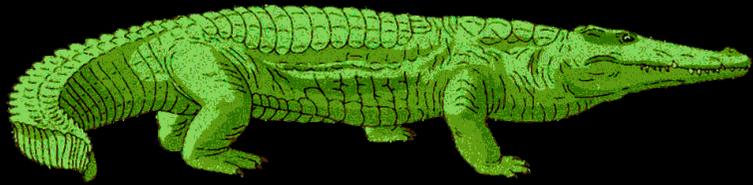


1cm

Unidentified vertebrae

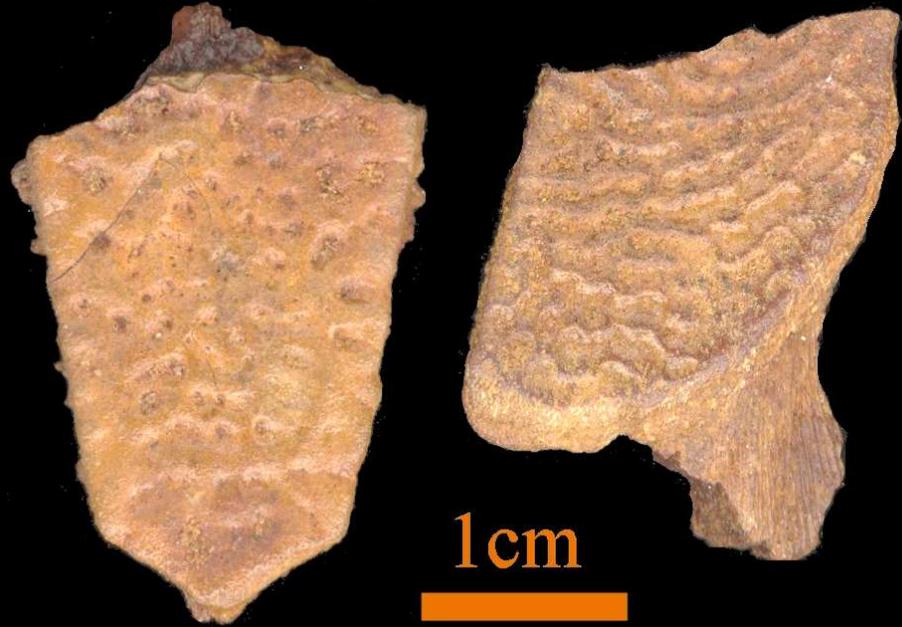


# Reptile Remains

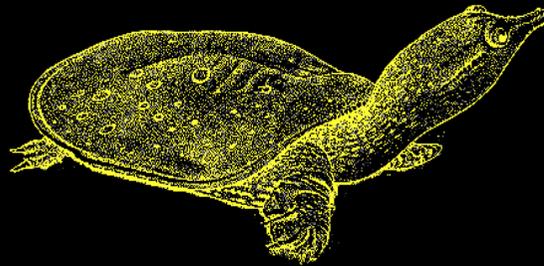


5mm

Dwarf crocodile  
Teeth



1cm



Soft shelled turtle  
*Trionyx*  
Carapace (upper shell)

# Mammal Remains



5mm

3<sup>rd</sup> molar tooth  
*Hyopsodus wardi*



5mm

Rodent  
Upper incisor tooth



# Bivalve molluscs



Extinct Clam  
*Caestocorbula* sp.



Extinct Clam  
*Lentidium*  
*arnouldii*



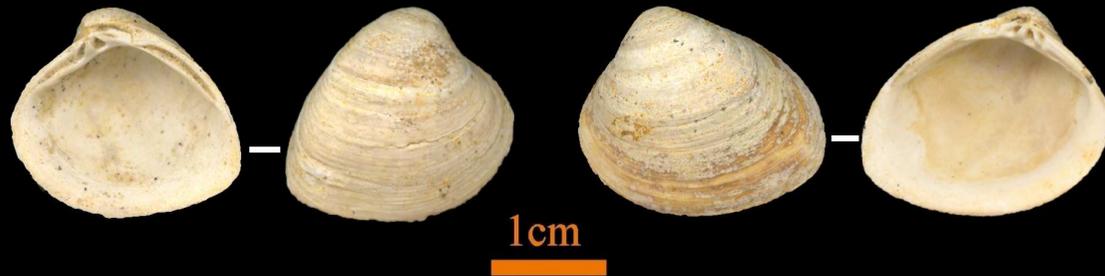
Nut clam  
*Nucula gracilentia*.



Oyster  
*Ostrea bellovacina*



Extinct Clam  
*Tellinocyclus tellinoides*

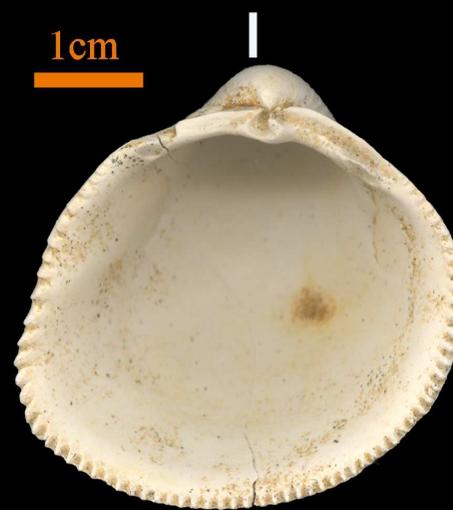


Marsh clam  
*Corbicula cuneiformis* var. *forbesii*

# Bivalve molluscs



Bittersweet cockle  
*Glycymeris plumstediensis*



Extinct cockle  
*Nemocardium plumstedianum*

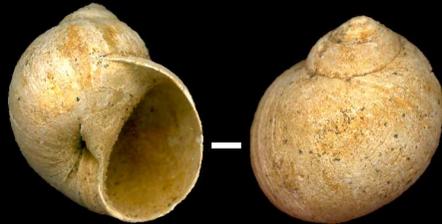


Mussel  
*Mytilus mitchelli*



Ship worm  
*Teredo* sp.

# Gastropod molluscs



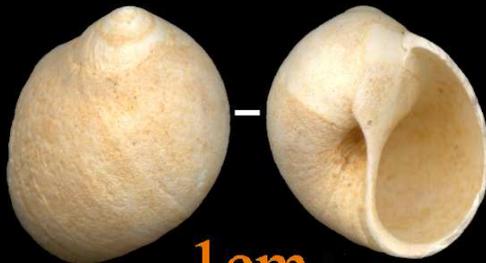
1cm

Moon snail  
*Euspira glaucinoides*



5mm

Banded pea shell  
*Theodoxus pisiformis*



1cm

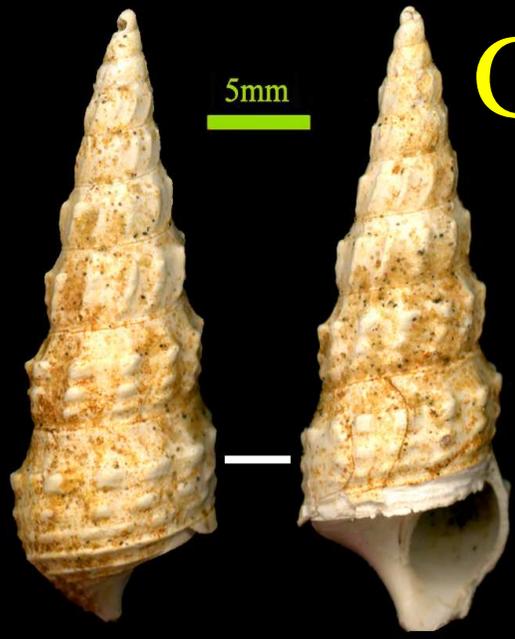
Moon snail  
*Euspira bassae*



5mm

Banded nerite  
*Nerita semilugubris*

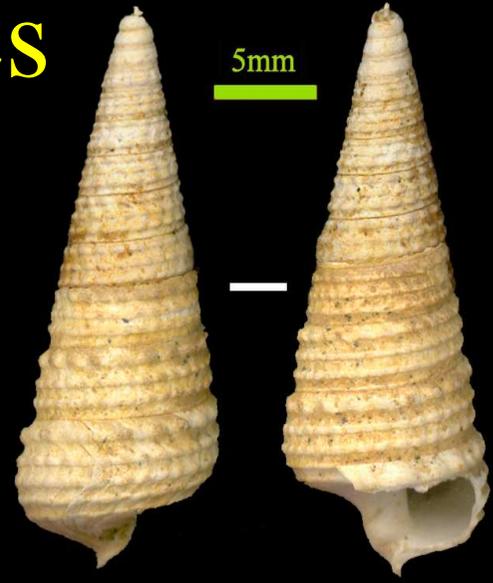
# Gastropod molluscs



Marsh creeper  
*Brotia melanoides*



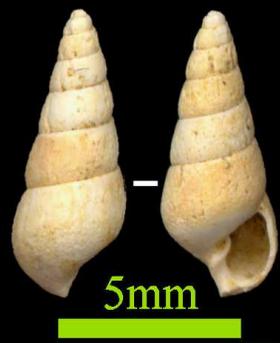
Auger shell  
*Mirula plicatula*



Marsh creeper  
*Tympanotonus funatus*



Freshwater snail  
*Melanopsis antidiluviana*

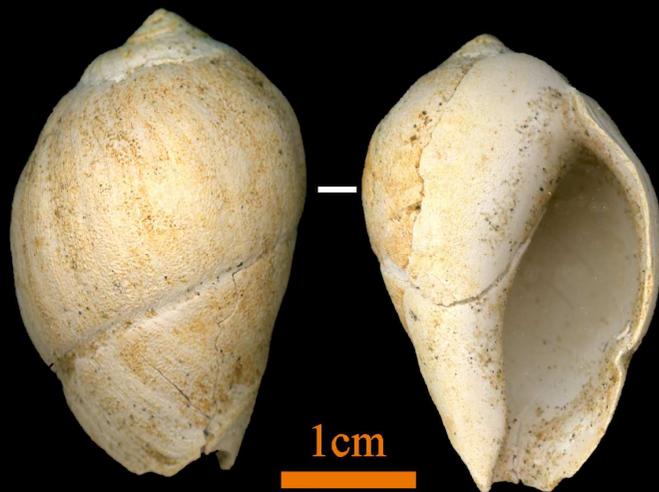


Clam sucker  
*Odostomia* sp.



Freshwater snail  
*Bayania triticea*

# Gastropod molluscs



Fissured false olive  
*Pseudoliva fissurata*

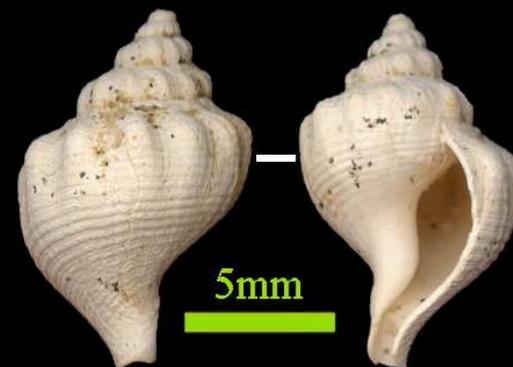


False limpet  
*Sigapatella echinulata*

Whelk  
*Eocantharus*  
*cf. latus*



Whelk  
*Streptolathyrus* sp.



Whelk  
*Pseudoneptunea subnodosa*

# Trace Fossils



Predation borings  
*Oichnus paraboloides*  
Attributed to *Euspira* spp.  
(below)



Holes in oyster shell  
*Entobia* sp.  
Burrowing sponge



Mud pellet burrow  
*Ophiomorpha nodosa*  
Callianassid shrimp

