



More investigations of microfossils in rocks!

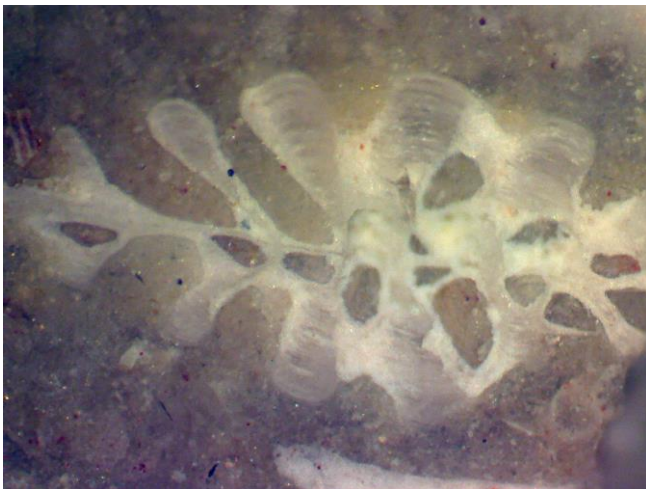
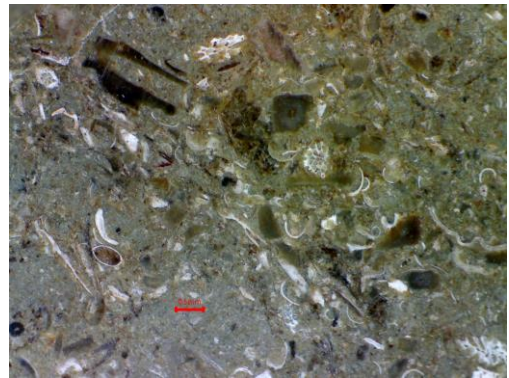


I have collected a variety of small samples of rocks from different venues. I cut and polish the rocks using the simple techniques described in the leaflets so I can see the components in the rock. Many of the limestones show evidence of fossil remnants and given the size I guess these are microfossils (less than 1mm long).



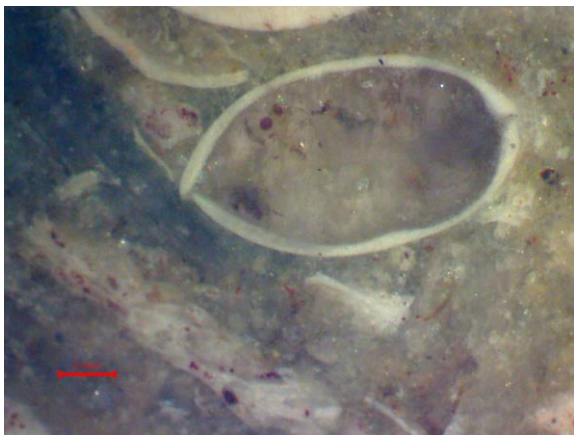
One of my recent samples was from the remnants of a quarry which is part of the geotrail in the Montgomery Forrest near Ludlow. When this was polished the surface was a bit rough but there were many fragments included which look like microfossils.

With a stereo microscope (or a digital microscope) we can see the fossils but not a lot of detail though there does seem to be some structure.

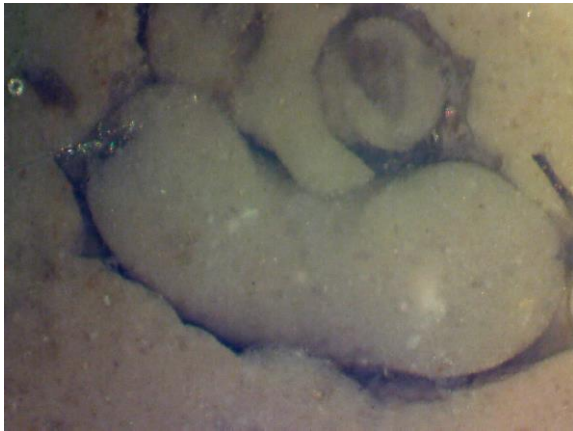


To see more I have set up my Vickers microscope for incident light examination (x5 objective). To see the fossils I needed to remove surface reflectance so used cross polarisers in the system. The main problem is the need for very intense illumination which meant I had to use an old bulb rather than an LED



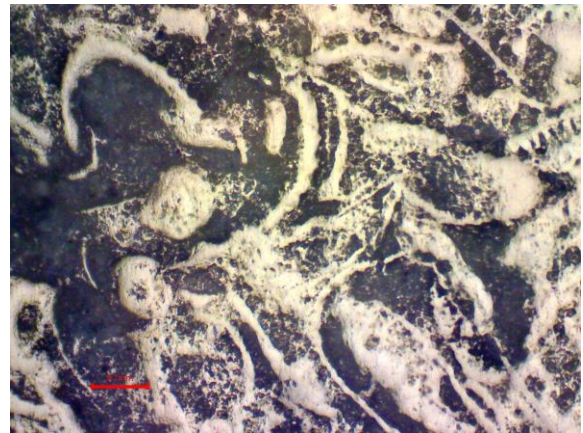
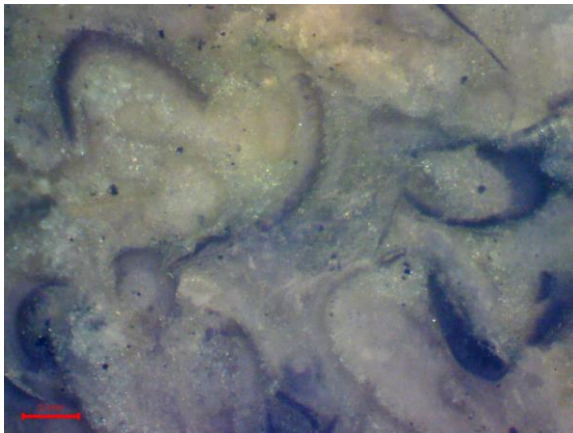


Microfossils in other rock samples



This is a piece of rock collected from the quarry waste at St Albans head.

Below is a sample from a working quarry near Langton. This is a decorative stone with lots of shell remnants. The sample is embedded in a resin before polishing. The left image is with crossed polars – the right image is with a single polar



This is an oolitic limestone from the Kirtlington Quarry in Oxfordshire. The ooliths are formed by deposits around a seed particle.

