

**BRITISH GEOLOGICAL SURVEY**

**Natural Environment Research Council**

**TECHNICAL REPORT**

**Stratigraphy Series**

**REPORT WH/90/276R**

**LOWER GREENSAND AMMONOIDS  
FROM CLOPHILL, BEDFORDSHIRE**

**B M Cox**

**Biostratigraphy Section  
Stratigraphy and Tectonics Group  
Report PD/90/264**

**Geographical Index**

**1:50 000 220 (LEIGHTON BUZZARD)**

**Subject Index**

**Cretaceous**

**Aptian**

**Macropalaeontology**

**Lithostratigraphy, Biostratigraphy,**

**Chronostratigraphy**

**Keyworth, Nottinghamshire British Geological Survey**

1. B S P Moorlock
2. E R Shephard-Thorn
3. R G Thurrell
4. B. Owens
5. Biostrat. Section files

PD 90/264

---

LEIGHTON BUZZARD SHEET (220)

LOWER GREENSAND AMMONOIDS FROM CLOPHILL, BEDFORDSHIRE

---

This report details two collections of ammonoid material from the Laporte Clophill Fuller's Earth Pit [TL 098 383]; the first was collected by E R Shephard-Thorn in connection with the mapping of the Leighton Buzzard Sheet and the second was collected by workmen and submitted by B S P Moorlock in connection with the current Lower Cretaceous Fuller's Earth contract. It is not certain if the two collections came from precisely the same horizon.

---

- (1) Laporte Clophill Fuller's Earth Pit, east of Clophill village, near Ampthill, Bedfordshire; north of A507 and c. 750 m W10° S of Beadlow [TL 105 385]  
NGR TL 098 383

Specimen nos OR921-923 (collected from 2 m bed of grey bioturbated sand overlying main fuller's earth seam at base of section)

The specimens are internal moulds of individual chambers of a large 'ammonite'; OR922-923 fit together and all three specimens probably come from a single individual. The septa have disappeared along with the outer shell but the suture patterns are well displayed. Dr H G Owen of the Natural History Museum, London has examined one of the specimens (OR921) (per C J Wood) and identified it as *Lytoceras* sp. indet. This is a non-ammonite ammonoid genus with a range from Lower Jurassic to Upper Cretaceous; it is therefore of no value for zonal age determination. It might, however, be worth checking out other Lower Greensand occurrences for comparative

stratigraphic purposes as they are clearly rare; at the time of the relevant part of Casey's Lower Greensand ammonoid monograph, no Aptian occurrences were known in southern England (Casey 1960, p.1).

---

(2) Laporte Clophill Fuller's Earth Pit, as (1) above.

Two unregistered specimens (collected by workmen; alleged to be from between two seams of fuller's earth)

Natural size black and white photographs of the two specimens have been examined by Dr R Casey who identifies them, "In the absence of any comparative material, and going largely on memory", as *Parahoplites nutfieldensis* (J Sowerby) [smaller specimen] and *P. cf. maximus* Sinzow (body chamber fragment) [larger specimen]. These taxa are described in Casey (1965).

Horizon: Upper Aptian, Zone of *Parahoplites nutfieldensis*, Subzone of *Tropaeum subarcticum*.

Casey reports that "This is the same horizon as the Lower Greensand Fullers Earth deposits in Surrey".

---

Reference

CASEY, R 1960. A monograph of the Ammonoidea of the Lower Greensand. Part I. *Monograph of the Palaeontographical Society London*.

\_\_\_\_\_ 1965. A monograph of the Ammonoidea of the Lower Greensand. Part VI. *Monograph of the Palaeontographical Society London*.

---

  
B M Cox

7th August 1990