

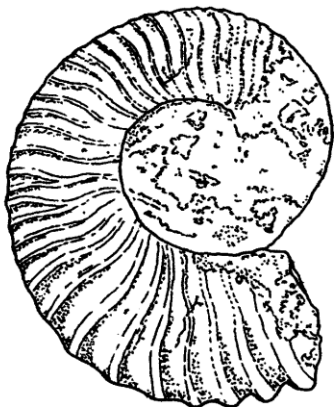


AMMONITES of the ISLE OF WIGHT

Ammonites are extinct marine animals with an external shell made of aragonite. The earliest forms, the ammonoids, can be found in European Lower Devonian rocks of about 400 million years in age. During the Cretaceous (145 to 65 Million years ago) they were extremely abundant in the world's oceans. Individual types of ammonite show such variety that they are used to identify the relative age of the rocks they are found in.

Cretaceous Stratigraphic column, showing common ammonite bearing formations (in blue).

Chalk
Upper Greensand
Gault Clay
Monks Bay Sandstone
Sandrock
Ferruginous Sand
Atherfield Clay
Vectis
Wessex



Deshayesites grandis

From the Ferruginous Sands



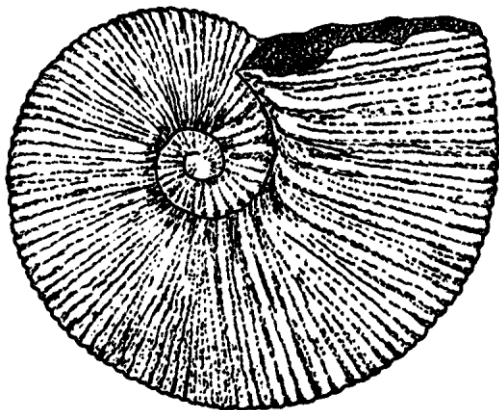
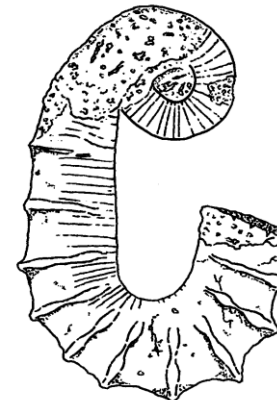
Tropaeum bowerbanki

A large heteromorph from the Ferruginous Sands



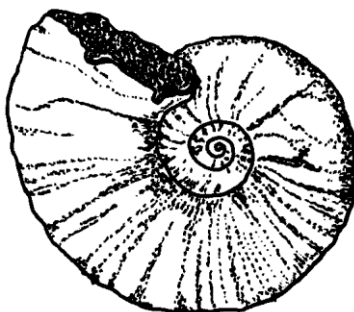
Australiceras gigas

A large heteromorph from the Ferruginous Sands



Parahoplites nutfieldi

From the Lower Greensand



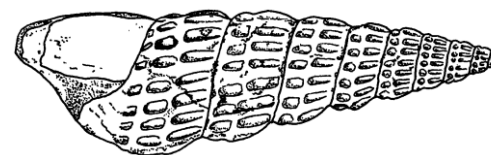
Roloboceras hambrovi

From the Lower Greensand



Schloenbachia varians

From the Grey Chalk



Turrilites costatus

From the Grey Chalk

A number of different forms exist including the more traditional flat coiled form, the partially coiled heteromorphs and the conical forms.