

Field Excursion to the Tunnel Cement Works, Mold, led by Malcolm Conway

D.M. Jones¹

JONES, D.M.. (1984). Field Excursion to the Tunnel Cement Works, Mold, led by Malcolm Conway. *Proceedings of the Shropshire Geological Society*, 4, 27. A guided tour of the Tunnel Cement Works, Mold.

Visited Cefn Mawr Quarry, the source of limestone for the cement works. This quarry is in Carboniferous Limestone and good fossils of *Lithostrotion Productus*, and *Spirifer* were found, together with some fine samples of fresh galena.

¹Shrewsbury, UK. E-mail: editor@shropshiregeology.org.uk

Report of the excursion of 8th July 1984.

Looking back, perhaps a hot dry July Sunday during a hot dry summer, is not the best time to visit a cement works. On the other hand, I don't suppose it would be much fun in the rain, either! We were nobly entertained by Tunnel Cement and especially Malcolm Conway, who was our guide around the hot, noisy and dusty interior of the works.

Basically, the cement has three components: 85% limestone, 10% shale (to provide alumina and iron) and 5% sand (to provide silica). These individual constituents are ground down and mixed in rotating drums with water to form a slurry, which is stored until it is fed to the kiln. There it is baked at temperatures up to 1500°C to form a clinker. This is then ground down and gypsum is added to control the chemical reaction in setting.

Having got thoroughly parched and dusty, we descended upon the gracious Free House *Plas Hafod* where we mingled with other Sunday lunch time revellers, somewhat conspicuous by our attire. Here, courtesy of Tunnel Cement, we wine and dined, enjoying what was most certainly the best meal the Geological Society has ever partaken.

Eventually, in a somewhat drowsy after-lunch state, we reluctantly left these fine surroundings and made our way to Cefn Mawr Quarry, the source of limestone for the cement works. Here we were let loose to explore and find what fossils we could. This quarry is in Carboniferous Limestone and good fossils of *Lithostrotion Productus*, and *Spirifer* were found, together with some fine samples of fresh galena.

D.M. Jones