

EXCITING NEW PROJECT BEING UNEARTHED: Earlcoate Time Travels 150 Million Years!

THE ETCHES COLLECTION



MUSEUM OF JURASSIC MARINE LIFE

We are eagerly awaiting to start an exciting, and highly unusual, project on the Jurassic coast in Kimmeridge, Dorset.

The snout of a Pliosaurus was discovered in 2022 by fossil enthusiast Philip Jacobs, prompting an excavation involving teams suspended by ropes high above the beach. Sir David Attenborough investigated the discovery of the skull in a BBC film broadcast, which you can still find on BBC iPlayer. Dubbed the “Sea-Rex”, this monstrous sea creature is thought to have lived 150 million years ago, and grew up to 12m-long, powering through the ocean using four paddle-like limbs.

The Etches Collection Jurassic Museum is the permanent home for the 2m-long (6ft) skull of the ‘Sea-Rex’ which is also a Guinness World Record holder as the most complete Pliosaurus skull in existence! *“This really is the most complete Pliosaurus skull that has been discovered to date and it is one of, if not the, most important specimen ever to come out from the Kimmeridge clay, and globally, this is one of the best specimens you’ll see”*, says Dr. Steve Etches, MBE.

Now the museum is crowdfunding to recover the rest of the creature that remains embedded in the cliff face. Dr Etches, who led the effort to remove and prepare the fossil, hopes to raise funds to excavate, preserve, study and display the remainder of the 150-million-year-old creature. He said: *“The excavation of the remaining Pliosaurus body is a race against time and nature, so this is a priority for me, especially since we could lose important pieces of the specimen due to rapid cliff erosion.”* **Enter Earlcoate.**

Following a design created by a third party geotechnical engineer and a penetrative ground survey by Portsmouth University, Earlcoate will be required to excavate approximately 150m wide x 20m deep x circa 20m long (working inland from the face of the cliff), creating in excess of 30,000 cubic metres of arisings to be deposited in the fields behind the excavation. The proximity to the cliff edge and the unstable nature of the ground will require careful management. All the arisings will be carefully scrutinised by the University who expect to discover many other fossils. The project has attracted huge interest worldwide, indeed, the project will be filmed and there is interest from both National Geographic and Netflix.



What's the Point at Hamble Point Marina? Drainage!

Steve Brooks, Richard Hargood, Alan Gregory, Marcus Day, Ashley Paskins, and Pete Waterman have been working hard at Hamble Point Marina, sorting out a drainage problem—and with the weather lately, just in time! The second part of a flood alleviation scheme that we have undertaken for MDL Marinas. The scheme comprises 120m of 375mm carrier drain, 88m of 300mm ACO channel and a 1500mm manhole silt pit. Over to a separator and a 200m³ egg crate attenuation tank. A link pipe to a pumping station (dual pump) to a 160mm diameter HPPE pipe to discharge through the existing flood bank and onto the existing rock armour revetment. Working in a live shipyard and marina, keeping many stakeholders operational and disruption to a minimum. Very challenging for chaps on site due to tight working space, vehicular traffic and boats everywhere.



PLANT PART: ADDITIONS TO OUR FLEET!



Picking our Own Cherries with the Earl Lift!
The ‘Earl Lift’ is a Hitachi HX99B mobile elevating work platform (MEWP) or more commonly known as a ‘Cherry Picker’. This little beauty is a diesel-powered, rubber-tracked telescopic boom lift designed for tight spaces with a 360° continuous rotation and a 1m rear-end swing radius. Key specifications include an 11.7m working height, 9.7m platform height, 8.3m–9.0m horizontal outreach, and a 200kg platform capacity. A useful bit of kit on our wide range of jobs. The Earl Lift is seen here helping to install the new vehicle workshop at Folds Farm. Giving an improved workspace for mechanic Phil Kloss to keep the Earlcoate vehicle fleet on the road.

Big, Bad and Beautiful!

New to the fleet; the big, bad CAT365C L. The Caterpillar 365C L is a large hydraulic excavator designed for heavy-duty applications. The “L” in the model name stands for “extended crawler” (long undercarriage), which increases stability and contact area with the ground.



Go Big Or Go Home!

The CAT 740 ADT —a robust, 40-ton capacity machine designed featuring a CAT C15 engine with approximately 464 horsepower and 24 cubic meter payload capacity. We have three of them joining our Volvo ADTs.



SNAP SHOTS

ARGY BARGY...Here’s our Komatsu PC700 Long Reach and Doosan 380 working with the Wilearl Barge!

LITTLE AND LARGE...And here she is with a dinky little playmate—the Komatsu SK714 Skidsteer!

