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JURASSIC OYSTERS IN GLACIAL ERRATIC AT OXBURGH HALL WEST NORFOLK

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ABSTRACT

A boulder in the grounds of Oxburgh Hall, west Norfolk is made almost exclusively from shells of the Middle Jurassic oyster Praeexogyra hebridica Forbes. An estuarine Middle Jurassic depositional environment can be inferred and it is likely the boulder originated from Bilsworth Limestone Formation (Great Oolite Group) bedrock in the East Midlands. The boulder is interpreted as a glacial erratic and its current location, relative to its likely bedrock source, suggests transport by ice flowing broadly from the north-west. Unfortunately the glacial geological context of this boulder is not known, precluding any further interpretation of its significance.

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FREDERIC WILLIAM HARMER: GEOLOGIST AND PIONEER PALAEOMETEOROLOGIST

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ABSTRACT

Frederic William Harmer was born in Norwich on 24 April 1835. At the age of 15 he joined the Harmer family business (one of the oldest clothing manufacturing firms in the country) and in due course became its Director. A separate strand in Harmer's career, his interest in geology and the main theme of this paper, also emerged during his early years. He became an active member of the Norwich Geological Society and a chance meeting with the renowned geologist, Searles V. Wood Junior, further advanced Harmer's geological interests. His mainly forgotten studies as palaeometeorologist in which he pioneered the reconstruction of past circulation patterns comprises an integral part of this paper. Harmer was a founder member of the Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society (later its president, 1877-1879); a member of the Geological Society of London council (1896-1900); a member of the Palaeontographical Society council (1878-1882; 1905-1906); awarded the Murchison Medal (1902); and awarded an Honorary M.A. by the University of Cambridge (1918). His civic duties in Norwich included serving as Alderman (1880), Magistrate (1884) and Mayor (1887-1888). Harmer died in Cringleford on 11 April 2923, aged 87.

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WILLIAM SMITH IN NORFOLK AND SUFFOLK 1801-1818

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ABSTRACT

Smith's remarkable sea defences and drainage works in East Anglia coincided with a blossoming of the natural sciences here. Although he managed to publish some of his geological and biostratigraphical observations in the region, Smith characteristically had little contact with contemporary investigators who included world class taxonomists and the pioneering archaeological stratigrapher John Frere.

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