
MOONROCKS

These round rocks are a unique feature. They can vary in size from a golf ball to weighing many tonnes. Nodules are concretions formed by the accumulation of limestone cement (calcium carbonate) in the sediment. They form by natural chemical processes in the sediment and are not water worn. Under ideal (isotropic) conditions a spherical shape will form, but other factors (such as sediment permeability and other chemicals present) may lead to some quite bizarre shapes. Often these shapes resemble animal remains and they are often mistaken for fossils.

Although the nodules themselves are not fossils, they can, and often do, contain fossils—especially shells—which are themselves composed of calcium carbonate. The shells form the nucleus around which further accumulation of the carbonate occurs.

Much less often, bones and wood are found in the concretions. Bones are made of calcium phosphate, but the decay processes lead to the precipitation of some carbonate around them, and this carbonate forms the nucleus around which further concentration of it occurs in the sediment, sometimes forming quite large nodules.