

**UKAFH**



# CAYTON BAY, NORTH YORKSHIRE



## INTRODUCTION TO CAYTON BAY

Thank you for enrolling on our fossil hunting event.

Cayton Bay is a location that is suitable for families. It yields ammonites and some superb gastropods, bivalves and brachiopods from the Oxford Clay. These are best found on extreme low tides on the foreshore. This location is certainly best during scouring conditions, however a keen eye should produce some finds at most times of the year.



## THE GEOLOGY

The rocks found at Cayton Bay are Jurassic aged from the Callovian stage. At the north end of Cayton Bay, the Cornbrash Formation can be seen, comprised of red-brown, sandy, nodular, bioturbated limestone with oysters and other bivalves. The Cornbrash lies beneath the start of the Cayton Clay Formation. Walking south towards Tenant's Cliffs, Lower Calcareous Grit is brought to beach level, followed by a calcareous limestone. At the waterworks, low tides reveals a section in the Middle and Upper Jurassic rocks.

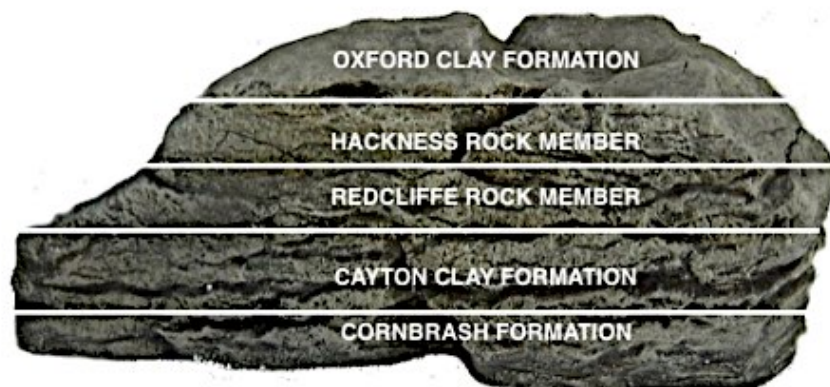
On scouring tides, argillaceous limestone and calcareous sandstone can be seen layered along the Upper Leaf of the Hambleton Oolite, which is seen excellently in the low cliff on the southern side of the Brigg. The tough, impure limestone contains well-preserved bivalves and ammonites. The sequence is shown in the diagram but faulting has caused unconformities.

During scouring, Oxford Clay can be seen along the foreshore south of the argillaceous limestone. Walking further south, Red Cliff is reached, where rocks of the Osgodby Formation slope above the Oxford Clay.

JURASSIC

CALLOVIAN

OSGODBY  
FORMATION



## WHAT FOSSILS MIGHT YOU FIND?

At any fossil hunting event, you cannot be guaranteed to find fossils. The frequency of fossils depends on the rates of erosion of the cliffs, by the sea and weather and of course, if others have already scoured the site beforehand!

*Below:* A nodule with an ammonite keel protruding. A sharp hit with a geological hammer should split the rock to reveal the specimen. Always wear goggles!



*Above:* Belemnite and *below,* Gryphaea oyster, both common finds at Cayton Bay



*Above:* Two photographs of the rocks found at Cayton Bay



We hope you enjoy your day at Cayton Bay. Please visit our website for further events which might be of interest to you at <https://ukafh.com/> Our book, with over 50 other sites across England & Wales, can be purchased at £16.95 here: [http://www.ukge.com/en-GB/A-guide-to-fossil-collecting-in-England-and-Wales\\_p-3439.aspx](http://www.ukge.com/en-GB/A-guide-to-fossil-collecting-in-England-and-Wales_p-3439.aspx)

