fossil is Monocraterion of which the most spectacular examples are preserved in the early Ordovician Tumblagooda Sandstone of Kalbarri National Park, Western Australia. In this locality there are large numbers of closely spaced Skolithos/Monocraterion of great size and depth (Fig 16).

Fig 16, *Huge vertical* **Skolithos** *or* **Monocraterion,** *Tumbelgooda Sst, W. Australia*

Wherever I go I instinctively look for the marks left by animals and plants in the environment, where walking in urban areas can provide good examples such as trace burrows on paving slabs in pavements or in the stonework of buildings and in the countryside.

So often the maker of the trace is easily identified but it is the ones that are not obvious or identifiable which intrigue me. So, it is with trace fossils of which I have examples that still puzzle me.

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Geoconservation at Dead Maid Quarry Mere: ST805323

Isabel Buckingham

This site in a former quarry just west of Mere is easy to access at the back of a trading estate and is of great interest: and had become completely overgrown
http://vvvvw.thegcrorg.uk/Sites/
GCR v23 CO3 Site0201.htm

An extract from the Geological Conservation Review states, 'This former quarry (now an SSSI) is famous for its condensed highly fossiliferous basal Ceno- manian succession,

Fig 1, *Dead Maid Quarry—before.*

comprising the socalled 'Popple Bed' and overlying Glauconitic Marl, which is intercalated between the Upper Greensand Chert Beds and the Lower Chalk of the traditional stratigraphy.' Alas, for us, no fossils popped out from the Popple Bed!

With parking possible just a few metres in

front of the quarry face, work soon started clearing away vegetation obscuring the rock behind, with ivy being the most resistant to removal and growing deep into the quarry face in its search for nutrients. Its invasive nature adds considerably to the break-up of the host rock . (Fig 1)

Eleven of us tackled the growth on a sunny Saturday morning in early September, being from the Bath Geological Society and the Wiltshire Geology Group. The ivy was pull-

Fig 2, *Dead Maid Quarry—after*

ing away the underlying rock but we managed to uncover the Pobble bed, various hard grounds and the recognisable Lower Chalk. We saw enough success to make a return trip annually a good idea. (Fig 2).

Having slaked out thirst in a local pub we went up Castle Hill, an excellent local view point (Fig 3). Keen types went back and found an ammonite (Fig 4).

This site is really worth a visit and next time please come and help. With thanks to Isabel Geddes who led the afternoon trip, Mel for the pictures and every one who came and helped.

Fig 3, *View from Castle Hill*

Fig 4, *Ammonite (probably* Schloenbachia)