



DINO HIGHWAY

In 2023, Gary Johnson was working in a **quarry** in Oxfordshire, England. While digging up clay, he felt unusual bumps in the ground. Researchers took a closer look and made a remarkable discovery. In January, they announced that the bumps were part of a “dinosaur highway” with about 200 dino footprints.

Experts say the tracks were created 166 million years ago. They are spread across five different trails. Four of the trails were likely made by huge plant-eating dinos called *Cetiosaurus* (see-tee-oh-SOR-uhs). Some of their footprints are a whopping 35 inches long. A foot that big

WORD TO KNOW

quarry *noun*. a large pit where rock, stone, and sand are dug up to be used for building

would need a men’s size 83 shoe! The tracks in the fifth trail are about 10 inches shorter. Scientists say they belong to *Megalosaurus* (meh-guh-loh-SOR-uhs). Those were ferocious meat-eating dinosaurs known for their clawed, three-toed feet.

More to Find

Researchers used drones to take more than 20,000 photos of the footprints during a week-long dig. They created 3-D models of the site. This information will help scientists study the area for years to come.

Kirsty Edgar is one of the scientists involved in the discovery. She says the

tracks could shed light on how these dinosaurs interacted, as well as their speed and size.

“These footprints offer an extraordinary window into the lives of dinosaurs,” Edgar said in a statement.

—by Alicia Green



A team works to uncover dinosaur tracks in Oxfordshire, England.