

"The skeleton, out of sight and often out of mind, is a formidable mass of tissue occupying about 9% of the body by bulk and no less than 17% by weight.

The stability and immutability of dry bones and their persistence over the centuries, and even millions of years after the soft tissues have turned to dust, gives us a false idea of bone during life. Its fixity after death is in sharp contrast to its ceaseless activity during life."

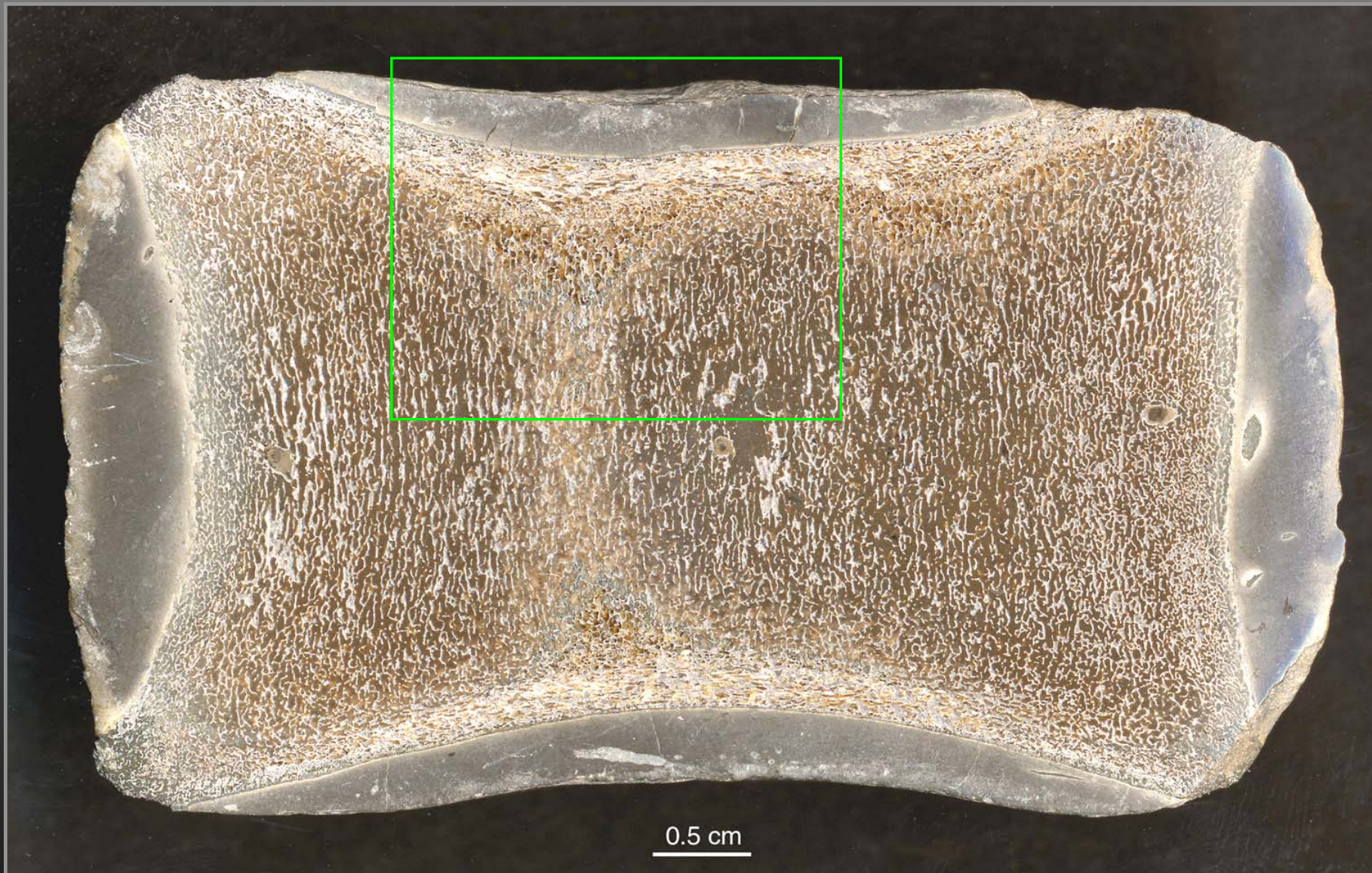
Cooke AM (1955) 'Osteoporosis'  
*Lancet* i: 878-882 & 929-937

Fossil bone – small vertebral body of ichthyosaur  
*Whitby, UK - Jurassic (~180 M yr)*





# Ichthyosaur vertebra





# Ichthyosaur vertebra

*preservation of trabecular architecture in stone*

