

# Muzeum Vltavínů

## Moldavite Museum

Český Krumlov, South Bohemia, Czech Republic

### Part 3 (of 4 parts)



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19 October 2013

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# Chlum Pit

## 19 October 2013



48°10.74'N, 14°31'32.08"E



Image from 2008, so this working quarry has developed a bit since then. Google earth

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145 m

2002

Imagery Date: 1/1/2008 48°48'10.43" N 14°31'30.20" E elev 536 m eye alt 1.17 km



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Vit introduces the group to Chlum Gravel Pit, which we are most fortunate and grateful to be allowed to visit.



The operators stand next to Vit.





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**Vit explains the mining process. Material is basically washed and goes through various screening processes for particle size.**



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The aim is to remove the large lumps of clay and end up with different sand / gravel size fractions: up to 4 mm, 4-8 mm, 8-16 mm and over 16 mm I think– or something like that at least!



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I think this machine sorts for size, then conveys to different processes.

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Some of the coarse moldavite-bearing sediment goes to the trommel where it is washed and subsequently (I think) further size sorted.





It then goes up the conveyor belt, moldavites and all!





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The gravel is then deposited in piles. The gravel is graded into different size fractions. The coarse fraction is hand sorted for moldavites.



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I believe that this machine washes the graded gravel. One can see a good medium-sized gravel coming out, with no lumps of clay.



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The washed gravels go up the conveyor belt. The material forms a pile and is then taken away by a digger. The coarse gravels are hand searched for moldavites.



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**The automated process means that small moldavites are missed and large ones may be broken/chipped. The process is, however, economic. Instead of just producing moldavites, sands and gravels are also sold.**



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**Most the moldavites go to the Far East (Hong Kong I assume) where they are faceted – chipped surfaces are therefore not a problem.**



The group then heads to a drained pit, currently being worked, to look for moldavites!





**Washed gullies seem a good prospect, but nothing found!**



**Moldavite-bearing gravels, but moldavites are not distributed evenly, both vertically and horizontally. It's hard work finding moldavites!**



## Digging in the gravels (and clays).





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**Sticky clays are not a good prospect.**



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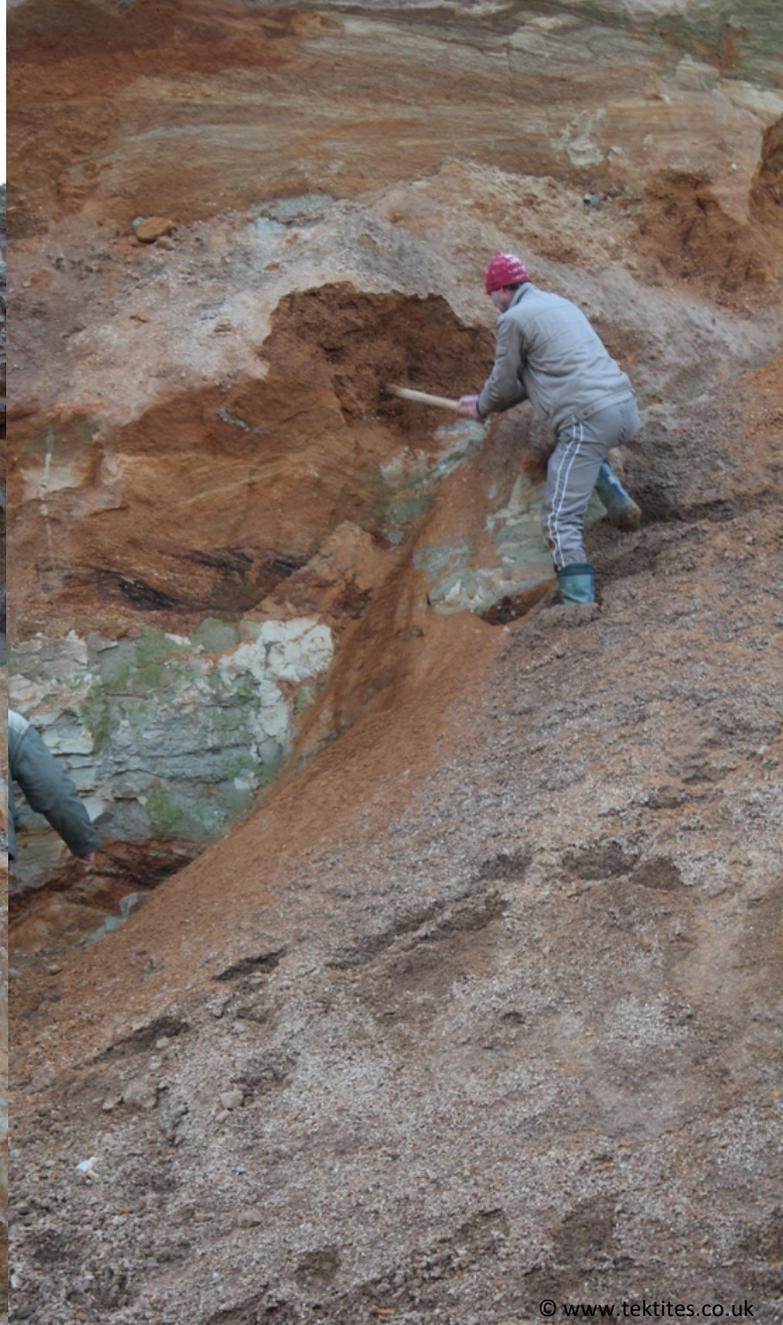


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**Some cross-bedding.**



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The coarse ferruginous gravels are where moldavites are found







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**Looking up from the base of the quarry. The quarry is pumped dry – if the pumps are turned off a lake will form.**



**A close-up of the moldavite-bearing gravels.**



**One can see the lateral variability of the fluvial sediment, with the coarse ferruginous gravels being the prime prospect.**



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**These looked like good prospects, but I don't think that any moldavites were found on this day.**















Searching the gravel on the track proved fruitful. Wearing a flashlight highlighted the green glassy tektites.



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**A look at the adjacent pit revealed how black miners (illegal miners that come out at night) have targeted a productive streak of gravel.**



Here we see a pump draining the open pit.



**Looking over the coarse gravels. I'm told that working in the night with a flashlight aids recognition of moldavites.**



# Finds of the day!



Ondrej found the  
prize specimen  
though!

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Here it is after being  
cleaned up.



It was night time  
before we left!



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# End of Part 3 (of 4 parts)

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