IGUANODON.DINOSAURS.IM

The teeth that started it

A Sussex find, a name that means iguana tooth, and more than one official modern length.

Typographic only. No photographs inside. Official wording kept unblended.

Point	Official wording
1822	“Discovered in Sussex in 1822, a collection of teeth was the first evidence of a gigantic herbivorous reptile named Iguanodon.”
Most accounts hold	“Most accounts hold that Mary was accompanying her husband on a trip to visit a patient in Sussex, when she noticed something glinting by the side of the road.”
1825	“In 1825, Dr Gideon Algernon Mantell… described several prehistoric teeth from the Wealden district of East Sussex… so Gideon named his newfound discovery Iguanodon.” The name means iguana tooth.
Early scaling	Scaled up from an iguana, the owner “could have been up to 18 metres or longer.” “We now know this dinosaur reached a length of about 10 metres.”
Directory	Length 10.0 m. Weight 4000 kg. Early Cretaceous, 140–110 million years ago.
Belgian masterpiece	For Iguanodon bernissartensis, adults “between 9 and 11 metres long,” “weighing around 8 tonnes,” dated 126–122 million years ago. Those figures are not averaged with the directory.

A short quiz

1. What does Iguanodon mean?
2. Is Mary Ann Mantell’s roadside story told as a certainty?
3. Can 10.0 m and 9 to 11 metres be averaged into one official length on this sheet?

Answers. Iguana tooth. No: the museum says “most accounts hold.” No: the official figures are kept in their own sentences.

Wording from the Natural History Museum’s Iguanodon directory, discovery and search pages, and from the Royal Belgian Institute masterpiece page, re-opened 18 November 2026. iguanodon.dinosaurs.im is independent of those institutions. Typographic sheet: no photographs inside.