

Paluxy excavations and field observations which enlarge the published literature on human footprints:

When the substrate is saturated with water the hallux (great toe) impression tends to "infill" with the host material during normal forward locomotion.

In change of lateral direction during forward motion or by adoption of stance position the anterior weight is more evenly distributed on all five toes and the ball of the foot. This causes a more even depression in mud, recording more of the toes and a more level ball.

Under these circumstances the footprint closely matches the natural contour of the foot. In the event of forward-lateral movement the outside flange of the foot tends to "square around" and expand the width of the print along the outside of the metatarsal base after the heel has been elevated slightly in the forward motion.



During forward-lateral movement outside flange of print enlarges and all toes tend to record.

During stance position all of contour records more evenly.