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Memoirs of the Geological Survey of Great Britain and of the Museum of Practical Geology, 12: The Geology of Parts of Berkshire and Hampshire by Henry W. Bristow & William Whitaker

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HENRY W. BRISTOW & WILLIAM WHITAKER

MEMOIRS OF THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF GREAT BRITAIN AND OF THE MUSEUM OF PRACTICAL GEOLOGY, 12: THE GEOLOGY OF PARTS OF BERKSHIRE AND HAMPSHIRE



12.

MEMOIRS

OF THE

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

OF

GREAT BRITAIN

AND OF THE

MUSEUM OF PRACTICAL GEOLOGY.

THE GEOLOGY OF

PARTS OF BERKSHIRE AND HAMPSHIRE. --- (SHEET 12.)

BY

HENRY W. BRISTOW, F.G.S., GEOLOGIST,

AND

WILLIAM WHITAKER, B.A., F.G.S., ASSISTANT-GEOLOGIST.

LISTS OF FOSSILS, BY ROBERT ETHERIDGE, F.R.S.E., F.G.S.

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NOTICE.

THE Map (12) to which this Memoir refers was published in 1860, and the Memoir itself passed through the press in 1861.

The Cretaceous lines were mapped by Mr. Bristow and Mr. Aveline; and the Eocene formations by these gentlemen, Mr. Whitaker, and the late Mr. Richard Trench, whose early death in India is a loss to geological science, for his work was full of promise.

Excepting outliers, the most westerly part of the Eocene strata of the London Basin lies in this district; and here, as in Sheet 13, to the north, all the subdivisions of these beds have been adopted from those established by Mr. Prestwich.

The descriptive part of the Memoir is chiefly by Mr. Bristow, a smaller part of the field-work of the district having been executed by Mr. Whitaker. Both have availed themselves of notes, furnished by their colleagues; and all the Fossils, excepting those from the Alluvium of the Kennett, have been determined and catalogued by Mr. Etheridge.

A. C. Ramsay, Local Director for Great Britain.

Geological Survey Office, January 6, 1862.

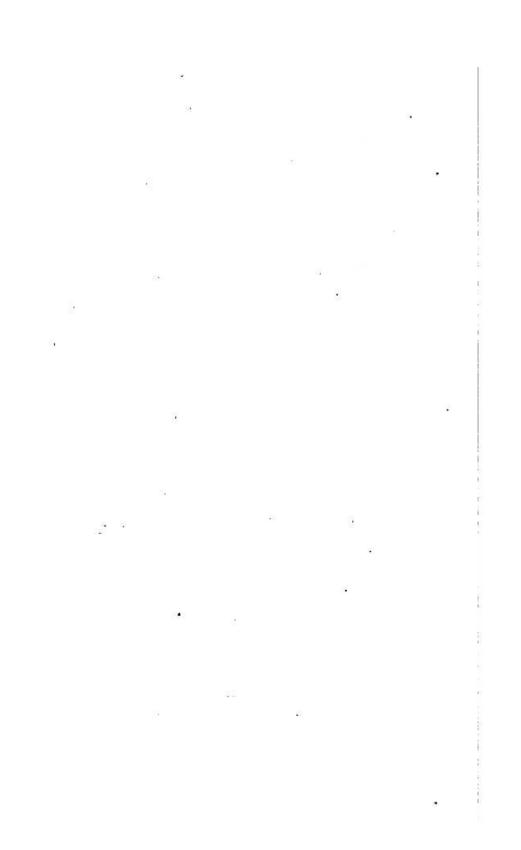


TABLE OF CONTENTS.

TH.			- 83					
	Cı	HAPTE	вI,					
Physical Features -	2 35	920	12	20	0.200	22	0.20	THE O
List of Geological Formations	(<u>\$</u>	•	2		•	-		2
Снарт	ee II _	Com		2-0	100			
Lower Greensand -	bK 11.—	-CKL.	MURUL	AGO OL	IEO.		700	82
	- 5	VALUE OF	<u> </u>	3	153			
GAULT Black land	•	-		**	7.407			7
Fossils of the Gault	- 5		- 5	•		-		3
	•		-					
UPPER GREENSAND -	36		- 5	25.0	3.0			
Maim Rock - Soluble Silica in Upper (3		0.		•	9
Malm	1 Lécritern	4.	- 5	- 34		- 5	-	2
Analysis of -	•		- 5	8	2	5		6
Freestone			-	-			-	ĕ
Firestone	2		2	33	2	- 8	0.5	6
Ragstone	2		: :: 		-	-		6
Tandeline		5.0				-		7
Water Supply -			1		5		-	9
Fossils -	-	10.50	177	200	650	*	12.5	9
Inlier of Shalbourn	_		-	•		-	-	10
Inlier of Burghelere and	Kingscle	ere		-		-	-	10
Fossils of the Alton and	Selbourn	e Distr	ict	•		* 5		11
Chloritic Marl Analysis of Chloritic Mar Chalk Marl Chalk Hollows in Chalk (Pot-bluiter of Hampstead Mar Consumption for lime-bu Fossils of Lower and Up	oles, Swahali rning an per Chal	allow-h d maki k	ng whit	ing	•	100000000000000000000000000000000000000	: : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : :	12 13 13 13 15 17
		LOWE	LOUE	ME DI	MAIA.			
WOOLWICH AND READING BE	D6 -	•	7	-	- T	•		
Main mass, north of the	Kennet	0.55	37	•		•	-	
Fossils of Bottom-Bed				•	37		-	
Main mass, south of the	Lennet	. W.		•	3 1	- 5		
Outliers of the London B Outliers between the Lon	don and	Hamps	hire Ba	rina	ies. -			
CHAPTER V.	Lower	Eoch	NE ST	RATA-	-contin	ued.		
LONDON CLAY	-	100	-	40				30
Main mass		-		S = -				
Fossils of Basement-Bed	at Wool	wich G	reen			#		
List of Fossils found in (haffell O	ntting	-	*1	3.5	7 3		
List of Fossils found at I		1 -	-			-		
Pebbles in the Basement-			•	•		-		
Reasons why the Pebbles	are blac	ck		78	3	*		
Onelline	(2)	1 - 14	-	400		-	-	35

CONTENTS.

2000000	DAME PARTY	- 1000 June						P	age
LOWER BAGSHOT BEDS	-	÷	•	+	*	-	-	* 3	36
Introductory	-	7.0	•	•	•	-	-	-	36
Outliers -	***		18.				•	•	36
Outliers, south of t							-	-	37
Pipe Clay, with Pl	ant-le	aves	50			- 	8.5	•	38
Ramsdell Clay	-	****	*****	***	-		-	-	39
Main Mass -	-	*	+	-	•	-	*	•	41
CHAPTER V	/II. <u>-</u>	-Midbl	в Ео	CENE S	TRATA	-cont	inued.		
BRACKLESHAN (MIDDL	E BAG	анот) Ва	D6	*		(• i)	-	*0	41
GENERAL RUMARUS High-level Gravel Pebble-Gravel		1	•	•	ŝ	1	-	-	43 43
Angular Gravel	- 1	-		S # 30	-	-	200	-	43
Brick-earth -	101	100 A	ā.		8	50		- 8	44
Low-level Gravel	30	35	8	-	13	- 37	75	- 9	45
Allavium of the K		S	-	7	-	700		-	47
Peat Beds associat			3		8	100	200		47
Marl Beds in ditto		an ances	-	100	3	-	- 5	-	47
Strand in ditto	577	Ø	30	186	- 5	100	101	- 3	48
Mammalian Rema	ine in	ditto	3		18	- 5	3500	- 8	48
Land- and Fresh-v			itta			-			48
Trees found in the			utto		- 5	-		- 5	49
			-		-	58		47	50
		in mino	200		1.7	-		4/,	
Human and other Greywethers	OKUL								51

LIST OF WOODCUTS.

Fig.	1.	Malm-rock Escarpme	nt at Hart	ley	•				Pag
Fig.	2.	Chalk-pit near Clatfo	rd Down I	Farm	•				- 16
Fig.	3.	Junction of London Skinner's Green and	Clay, and Crockham	Woolw	rich and	Headi	ng Beds	, betwee	n - 25
Fig.	4.	Junction of London bury Brick-yard	333	1000		Readin	g Beds,	at Kin	- 91
Fig.	5,	London Clay and Ba	sement Be	da, at S	herborn	e St. Je	hn	4	- 3
Fig.	6.	Section through the Tertiary Outlier of E		Teensan -	d Inlie	r of Sh	albourn,	and th	e - 2
Fig.	7.	Section of superficial at South-west Corner				olwich s	nd Read	ling Bed	, - 2
Fig.	8.	Section of Gravel and	d Lower B	agshot	Sand of	Inkpen	Commo	on a	- 4
Fig.	9.	Section in Alluvium	of the Ker	net W	est of N	wbury	ė	•	- 4
Fig.	10.	Section in Alluvium	of the Ken	net S.V	V. of Th	ntcham	Station		- 4

GEOLOGY OF PARTS OF BERKSHIRE AND HAMPSHIRE. (MAP 12).

CHAPTER I.

PHYSICAL FEATURES.

THE present Map (No. 12.) comprises an area of 675 square miles, and includes the southern part of Berkshire, North Hampshire, and a small portion of East Wiltshire.

The chief towns included in this district are Hungerford and Newbury in Berkshire; and Andover, Basingstoke, Odinam, Alton,

and Alresford in Hampshire.

The principal river is the Kennet, which springing in Marlborough Downs enters the Map near its north-west corner, on the north side of the town of Hungerford. Thence it runs nearly in an easterly direction, being frequently divided into smaller streams, which again unite with the main channel, past Avington, Kintbury, Newbury, Thatcham, and Aldermaston. Opposite the latter place it follows a north-easterly course, and again crosses the northern margin of the Map about a mile beyond Sulhamptead Bannister, ultimately falling into the Thames a little below the town of Reading. The river Kennet produces a great variety of fish, amongst which the trout and eels have long been celebrated for their size and flavour :-

> "The Kennet swift, for gilver cels renown'd; The Loddon slow, with verdant alders crown'd." POPE's Windsor Forest.

Large numbers of crawfish are also caught in it.

Along the river Kennet, between Hungerford and Reading (a distance of about twenty-five miles), there extends a valuable tract of water-meadows, producing much grass, which is sometimes made into hay, and at other times depastured with sheep and cattle.

The Kennet and Avon Canal, which is 44 feet broad, and the branch of the Great Western Railway from Reading to Hungerford, as well as the old turnpike-road between those places, follow the course of the

valley of the Kennet, and run nearly parallel with the river.

The river Lambourn, a tributary of the Kennet, enters the northern edge of the Map, and after passing Donnington Grove falls into the main stream about a mile below Newbury. This river, also, produces great numbers of fish; but the trout of the Lambourn are of a paler colour and not so much esteemed as those of the Kennet. The Lambourn is celebrated in consequence of the belief which was formerly entertained of its being fuller in the summer than in the winter, when it was said to be sometimes even lost altogether. There appears to be no real foundation for this story, which may, perhaps, have originated in the circumstance of the river maintaining a nearly equal flow

throughout the year, and not varying much either in summer or winter.

The river Loddon (the subject of Pope's fable of Lodona) rises in the Chalk, near Basingstoke, and runs in an easterly direction to Old Basing, where it changes its course and flows in a N.N.E. direction,

[·] Anciently called Cheneteberie and Kennetbury, of which latter word its present name is a corruption.