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

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HENRY W. BRISTOW & WILLIAM WHITAKER

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Trieste

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

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AND

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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.

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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, Odiham, 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 silver eels 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 Chenetebere and Kennetbury, of which latter word its present name is a corruption.