

Chalk Group Lithostratigraphy: Marlborough Downs/Berkshire Downs/Chilterns - Chalk Rock: Bottom Hardground Suite

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The bottom hardground suite of the Chalk Rock comprises the Ogbourne Hardground overlain by the Pewsey Hardground (Bromley & Gale, 1982).

The Ogbourne Hardground is well developed in the Marlborough Downs and further south and west; northeastwards of Marlborough it quickly fades, and eventually disappears (Bromley & Gale, 1982). Where present it is typically a highly convolute, strongly glauconitised hardground (Bromley & Gale, 1982), the formation of which Gale (1996) linked to a major fall in sea level and ensuing erosion across a shallow marine platform in the late *C. woollgari* Zone; deeper water in regions adjacent to this platform (e.g. parts of Dorset and Hampshire) developed much thicker coeval successions.

Above the Ogbourne Hardground is the Pewsey Hardground, a convoluted, weakly phosphatised hardground that like the Ogbourne Hardground, fades and disappears northeastwards of the Marlborough Downs (Bromley & Gale, 1982). This hardground was formed by transgression in the early *S. neptuni* Zone, following the regression responsible for the formation of the Ogbourne Hardground (Gale, 1996).

Macrofossil Biozonation: late *C. woollgari* and early *S. neptuni* ammonite zone (= *T. lata* Zone)

Correlation: see Correlation with other parts of the UK

References

BROMLEY, R G & GALE, A S. 1982. The lithostratigraphy of the English Chalk Rock. *Cretaceous Research*, Vol. **3**, 273 - 306.

GALE, A S. 1996. Turonian correlation and sequence stratigraphy of the Chalk in southern England. In **HESELBO, S P & PARKINSON, D N** (eds), Sequence Stratigraphy in British Geology, *Geological Society Special Publication*, No. **103**, pp. 177-195.

See: *C. woollgari* Zone, *S. neptuni* Zone, *T. lata* Zone

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