

# Chalk Group Lithostratigraphy: Marlborough Downs/Berkshire Downs/Chilterns - Grey Chalk

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The Grey Chalk is similar to that of the Southern Region, comprising massive bedded, yellowish-grey, marly chalk, lacking the conspicuous rhythmic sedimentation of the Chalk Marl. It is typically 20-30 m thick (Rawson *et al.*, 1978; Shephard-Thorn *et al.*, 1994), and contains occasional thin marl seams. In the lower part of the succession, a bed of calcareous chalk with pelletal phosphate, small fish teeth and glauconitised and phosphatised pebbles, locally known as the 'Buckinghamshire Rag', is possibly the equivalent of Jukes-Browne Bed 7 of the Southern Region (Wood, 1996). At Totternhoe and in the Hitchin district, the latter bed equates with an erosion surface, or locally hardground characterised by the terebratulid brachiopod *Ornatothyris sulcifera*, overlain by a marl rich in the oyster *Pycnodonte*. The higher part of the Grey Chalk, equivalent to the White Bed in the North Downs, is massive, off-white chalk with curvilinear jointing (Wood, 1996). The Grey Chalk is typically sparsely fossiliferous, although terebratulid brachiopods are relatively common near the base (Wood, 1996).

**Macrofossil Biozonation:** *A. rhotomagense* Zone, *A. jukesbrownei* Zone, *C. guerangeri* Zone (Wood, 1996)

**Correlation:** see Correlation with other parts of the UK

## References

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See: Grey Chalk (Southern Region), Chalk Marl, Jukes-Browne Bed 7, hardground, marl

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