

Chalk Group Lithostratigraphy: Marlborough Downs/Berkshire Downs/Chilterns - Melbourn Rock

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The Melbourn Rock was first recognised by Penning & Jukes-Browne (1881), and was subsequently adopted by the Geological Survey as a marker for the base of the Middle Chalk (Hill & Jukes-Browne, 1886; Jukes-Browne & Hill, 1903). It comprises typically 3-4 m of closely spaced beds of dense, nodular, typically iron-stained limestone, with thin marls and mineralised hardgrounds. Glauconite occurs as coatings to some of the chalk nodules, especially in the hardgrounds. Hopson *et al.* (1996) recently described the Melbourn Rock at Ashwell Quarry [TL 2687 3945], near Royston, the only currently available stratotype, but the relationship of this exposure to the original concept of Hill & Jukes-Browne (1886) is uncertain. Recently, Mortimore (1986a) has redefined the Melbourn Rock for application to the Southern Region, in which it is a much less conspicuously developed feature.

Macofossil Biozonation: *M. geslinianum* Zone (pars), *N. juddii* Zone, *Mytiloides* spp. Zone (pars) (Wood, 1996)

Correlation: see Correlation with other parts of the UK

References

HILL, W & JUKES-BROWNE, A J. 1886. The Melbourn Rock and the Zone of *Belemnitella plena* from Cambridge to the Chiltern Hills. *Quarterly Journal of the Geological Society of London*, Vol. **42**, 216-31

JUKES-BROWNE, A J & HILL, W. 1903. The Cretaceous rocks of Britain. Vol. 2 - The Lower and Middle Chalk of England. *Memoir of the Geological Survey of the United Kingdom*.

MORTIMORE, R N. 1986a. Stratigraphy of the Upper Cretaceous White Chalk of Sussex. *Proceedings of the Geologists' Association*, Vol. **97**(2), 97-139.

PENNING, W. H. & JUKES-BROWNE, A. J. 1881. Geology of the neighbourhood of Cambridge. *Memoirs of the Geological Survey of England & Wales*.

See: marl, hardground, Melbourn Rock (Southern Region)

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