

Chronostratigraphy of the Chalk Group - Coniacian Stage

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The Coniacian stage was first defined by Coquand (1857), with the type area near Cognac, France. Subsequently, the Salzgitter-Salder Quarry section, Lower Saxony, Germany, has been recommended as the Turonian-Coniacian boundary stratotype (Kauffman et al., 1996).

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Definition of base of stage

The first occurrence of the inoceramid bivalve *Cremnoceramus rotundatus* sensu Tröger non Fiege (= *Cremnoceramus deformis erectus*) (Kauffman et al., 1996)

Constituent Chalk Group lithostratigraphical units in the UK

Integrated southern England Chalk Group lithostratigraphy: Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation (pars) and Seaford Chalk Formation (pars)

Northern England: Burnham Chalk Formation (pars)

East Anglia: Upper Chalk (pars)

N. Ireland: Coniacian strata do not form part of the Chalk Group

North Sea: Mackerel Formation (pars)

Constituent macrofossil biozones in the UK

M.coranguinum (pars)

Lower *H.rostrata* Zone
(Northern England only)

CONIACIAN *M.cortestudinarium*

← *s.plana* (pars)

Lithostratigraphical marker-beds for the base of the stage

Southern England: base of the Navigation Hardground

Northern England: interval between Kiplingcotes Marls 1& 2 (Gaunt et al., 1992).

East Anglia: base of Top Rock (where present); perhaps locally in the Bury St. Edmunds district it is marked by a group of closely spaced, iron-stained, spongiferous nodular chalk beds (Bristow, 1990); a hardground at 432.03 m depth in the BGS Trunch Borehole [TG 2933 3455], north Norfolk, is inferred to represent the Navigation Hardground (Wood et al., 1994).

References

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