

Chronostratigraphy of the Chalk Group - Maastrichtian Stage

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[Jump to navigation](#) [Jump to search](#)

This stage was first defined by Dumont (1850), based on the area around Maastricht in the Netherlands (Birkelund et al., 1984).

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Contents

- [1 Definition of base of stage](#)
- [2 Constituent Chalk Group lithostratigraphical units in the UK](#)
- [3 Lithostratigraphical marker-beds for the base of the stage](#)
- [4 References](#)

Definition of base of stage

The first appearance of the belemnite genus *Belemnella* (Birkelund et al., 1984), but this is difficult to precisely identify in UK successions, where a better criterion is the acme of the foraminiferan *Reussella szajnochae* (Bailey et al., 1984). Burnett et al. (1992) pointed out that the alleged synchronicity of micro-fossil and macro-fossil events across the Campanian / Maastrichtian boundary is false. Micro-fossil indices for the basal Maastrichtian occur below macrofossil indices for the same horizon.

Constituent Chalk Group lithostratigraphical units in the UK

East Anglia: Sidestrand Chalk Member, Trimingham Sponge Beds Member, Little Marl Point Member, Beacon Hill Grey Chalk Member

N. Ireland: Tanderagee Chalk Member, Port Calliagh Chalk Member, Ballycastle Chalk Member

North Sea: Mackerel Formation (pars), Tor Formation

Constituent macrofossil biozones in the UK (onshore)
younger Maastrichtian macrofossil biozones not preserved
onshore in the UK

MAASTRICHTIAN *B.occidentalis* (pars)
B.lanceolata s.l.

Lithostratigraphical marker-beds for the base of the stage

East Anglia: not precisely defined, owing to lack of continuous exposure; the highest exposed Campanian is marked by the Overstrand Pyramidata Hardground in north Norfolk.

N. Ireland: the Long Gilbert Flint

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Category:

- [Chronostratigraphy of the Chalk Group](#)

Navigation menu

Personal tools

- Not logged in
- [Talk](#)
- [Contributions](#)
- [Log in](#)
- [Request account](#)

Namespaces

- [Page](#)
- [Discussion](#)

Variants

Views

- [Read](#)
- [Edit](#)
- [View history](#)
- [PDF Export](#)

□

More

Search

Navigation

- [Main page](#)
- [Recent changes](#)
- [Random page](#)
- [Help about MediaWiki](#)

Tools

- [What links here](#)
- [Related changes](#)
- [Special pages](#)
- [Permanent link](#)
- [Page information](#)
- [Cite this page](#)
- [Browse properties](#)

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- [About Earthwise](#)
- [Disclaimers](#)

