

# Geology of the Andover area: Introduction

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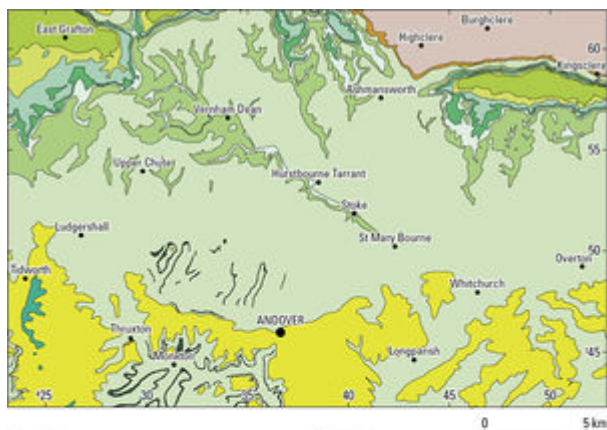
[Jump to navigation](#) [Jump to search](#)

**This page is part of a category of pages providing a summary of the geology of the Andover district (British Geological Survey Sheet 283), which extends over approximately 600 km<sup>2</sup> of north-west Hampshire and a small part of eastern Wiltshire.**

**Links to other pages in this category can be found at the foot of the page.**

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Andover district and bedrock geology.  
P807819.

## Introduction

Period	Epoch	Lithostratigraphic units		Thickness (m)	Age* (Ma)	Major events
QUATERNARY	PLEISTOCENE TO HOLOCENE			1-10	2.6	Alterations of interglacial and glacial events. Wide fluctuations of relative sea level
						Major unconformity time gap of about 40 Ma after the main Alpine Orogeny about 20-25 Ma. Major inversion of structures
PALAE-OGENE	PALEOCENE TO EOCENE	THAMES GROUP	LONDON CLAY FORMATION	up to 100	65.5	Marine transgression
		LAMBETH GROUP	READING FORMATION	25-30		Major unconformity time gap about 15 Ma
CRETACEOUS	LATE	WHITE CHALK SUBGROUP	CULVER CHALK FM	up to 15	99.6	Uplift and minor inversion of structures
			NEWHAVEN CK FM	up to 70		
			SEAFORD CHALK FM	60-70		
			LEWES NODULAR CHALK FM	45-75		
			NEW PIT CHALK FM	20-30		
	GREY CHALK SUBGROUP	ZIG ZAG CHALK FM	30-50	North Atlantic continues to open		
		WEST MELBURY MARLY CHALK FORMATION	15-20			
	EARLY	UPPER GREENSAND FM		40-70	c.143	North Sea and Wessex basins joined
		GAULT FORMATION		40-85		
		LOWER GREENSAND GROUP	UNDIVIDED	up to 12		
WEALDEN GROUP		UNDIVIDED	up to 350	Short-lived but widespread unconformity Active block faulting		
PURBECK GROUP		DURLSTON FM LULWORTH FM	35-60	London Platform uplifted Regression		
JURASSIC	LATE	PORTLAND GROUP	PORTLAND STONE FM WARDOUR FORMATION	45-60	c.161	Maximum Jurassic marine transgression
		KIMMERIDGE CLAY FM		183-273		
		CORALLIAN GROUP		42-51		
	MIDDLE	OXFORD CLAY FM KELLAWAYS FM		100-300	176.0	Downwarping
GREAT OOLITE GROUP			up to 200	Uplift shallow-water carbonates		
INFERIOR OOLITE GROUP						
EARLY	LIAS GROUP		60-650	201.6	Renewed extension	
PERMIAN? TO TRIASSIC		PENARTH GROUP		up to 20	c.245	Marine transgression
		MERCIA MDST GP SHERWOOD SST GROUP		up to 270		
ORDOVICIAN TO CARBONIFEROUS		PERMIAN STRATA * ?	AYLESBEARE MUDSTONE GROUP	up to 230	c.245	Initial extensions of Wessex Basin. Major unconformity about 300 Ma
		CARBONIFEROUS, DEVONIAN, SILURIAN, ORDOVICIAN,		unknown		

\* Timescale from Gradstein et al., 2004. Modified by Walker et al., 2009

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This Sheet Explanation provides a summary of the geology of the Andover district (Sheet 283), which extends over approximately 600 km<sup>2</sup> of north-west Hampshire and a small part of eastern Wiltshire **Figure P807819**. The district covers an area from the A338, through Tidworth, in the west, to Overton and Kingsclere in the east. The district is traversed by major roads with the north-south A34 and the east-west A303 connecting the area to Newbury, Winchester, Basingstoke and Salisbury (see also **Jukes-Browne, 1908**)<sup>[1]</sup>.

The small market town of Andover, that developed significantly as an overspill for London in the 1950s, 60s, 70s and 80s, is the only urban area within the district and has a population of around 52 000. The town is the home of Defence Logistic Organisation and the Headquarters of Land Forces but also has a considerable light industry. Elsewhere the district is rural with arable farming and forestry being the principal industries.

The Andover district is founded for the greater part on Cretaceous strata; the area is characterised by broad gently dipping slopes and short, steep scarps which are cut by the valleys of the River Test and its tributaries.

# Geological succession

Summary of the geological succession in the Andover area

## References

1. [↑](#) Jukes-Browne, A J. 1908. The geology of the country around Andover. Memoir of the Geological Survey of Great Britain, Sheet 283 (England and Wales).

## Geology of the Andover area – contents

Introduction

[Geological setting](#)

[Geological description](#)

[Concealed strata](#)

[Ordovician to Devonian](#)

[Carboniferous](#)

[Permian](#)

[Triassic](#)

[Jurassic](#)

[Cretaceous](#)

## [Exposed Strata](#)

[Upper Greensand Formation \(UGS\)](#)

[Chalk Group](#)

[Palaeogene](#)

[Quaternary](#)

[Artificial ground](#)

## [Applied geology](#)

[Hydrogeology](#)

[Bulk minerals](#)

[Geotechnical considerations and hazards](#)

## [Information resources](#)

## [References](#)

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[Category:](#)

- [Andover - the geology of the area](#)

## **Navigation menu**

## Personal tools

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

## Namespaces

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

## Variants

## Views

- [Read](#)
- [View source](#)
- [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](#)

