

Southern Region Chalk Group

Lithostratigraphy: Bristow et al. (1997) - Holywell Nodular Chalk

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

The Holywell Nodular Chalk, c. 25-50 m thick, mostly equates with the concept of the Holywell Chalk of Mortimore (1986a), comprising hard, nodular, shelly chalk, with regularly developed marl seams and the positive feature-forming Melbourn Rock at the base. However, following stratigraphical revisions to the unit proposed by Mortimore & Pomerol (1996), the top of the Holywell Nodular Chalk is downwardly revised (from Malling Street Marl 1) to coincide with the Gun Gardens Main Marl (= Lulworth Marl of Gale, 1996), although in the field this horizon is more readily recognised by the upper limit of *Mytiloides*-rich shell detrital chalk. Apart from the 6 distinctive paired Meads Marls at the base, Mortimore & Pomerol (1996) recognised that there was a much more extensively developed marl seam stratigraphy comprising the successively overlying Holywell Marls (17 recognised) and Gun Gardens Marls (16 recognised) than was previously detailed by Mortimore (1986a). As so defined, the Holywell Nodular Chalk of Bristow *et al.* (1997) excludes more massive bedded chalk that formed the top of the Holywell Chalk of Mortimore (1986a), these beds belonging to the lower New Pit Chalk of Bristow *et al.* (1997). Flints are locally developed in a few successions in Dorset (Mortimore & Pomerol, 1987) and the northern Chilterns (Shephard-Thorn *et al.*, 1994, Hopson *et al.*, 1996).

Macrofossil Biozonation: *Mytiloides* spp. Zone

Correlation: see Correlation with other Southern Region successions

see Correlation with other UK successions

References

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See: Holywell Chalk (Mortimore, 1986a), marl, Gun Gardens Main Marl, New Pit Chalk (Bristow et al., 1997), flint

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[Category](#):

- [Southern Region Chalk Group Lithostratigraphy: Bristow et al. \(1997\)](#)

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](#)

