EXCURSION TO SELBORNE.

SATURDAY, JUNE 13TH, 1891.

*(In conjunction with the Hampshire Field Club.)**Directors:* P. L. SCLATER, Ph.D., F.R.S., and W. WHITAKER, F.R.S.*(Report by the EXCURSION SECRETARY, revised by W. WHITAKER.)*

This excursion was not purely one of hero-worship, since, apart from the association of the district with the author of the "Natural History and Antiquities of Selborne," it is one of those localities where the Upper Greensand, so often spoken of slightly, is seen to form a marked feature.

Thanks to the brilliant weather, and excellent arrangements made by the London and South-Western Railway Company, a party of nearly 100, including more than sixty members of the Association, assembled at Alton a little after noon. After receiving the hospitality of Mr. Crowley, in whose grounds the Hampshire contingent was waiting, the party started for a Chalk-pit south of the town. There a section of the Melbourne Rock, the bottom bed of the Middle Chalk, was examined, and Mr. Whitaker gave a short address on the section, and on the leading geological features of the district.

After this the party started south-east towards West Worldham and Hartley Park, coming to a halt at the commencement of one of the "hollow lanes" which are characteristic of the district, and which had attracted the attention of Gilbert White. Both Directors addressed the party on the subject, when it was explained that these "hollow lanes" had been excavated by the traffic of ages; they were not connected with the drainage of the district, although in places water had since found its way into them, and had of course helped to deepen them by carrying off material. Entering the lane, which was found to be over twelve feet deep in places, and insufferably hot, the party saw the Upper Greensand in the banks on either hand as described in *Pennant Letter 5*.

After admiring the magnificent panoramic view from the crest of the Upper Greensand escarpment, the party descended through the woods at Cordover's Farm to the broken ground over the Gault, at the foot of the escarpment. A short stay was made here for lunch, after which Mr. Whitaker called particular attention to the broken ground just mentioned, pointing out that this was the result of the weathering away of the beds. For the impervious clay of the Gault stopped the percolation of water which had come through the permeable Upper Greensand; a plane of weakness was thus created, and the harder beds of the latter formation

slid forward over the wet slippery surface of the Gault, producing a good specimen of landslip below the hold escarpment. Dr. Sclater then pointed out the chief topographical features in the view, over a wide expanse of country, including some of the boldest features of the Lower Greensand.

A move was then made south-west, round the Upper Greensand escarpment, towards Selborne. There, by permission of General Parr, a visit was paid to Gilbert White's house, "The Wakes." Some of the party then sat down to tea at the Queen's Arms, while those for whom there was no room ascended the lofty "hangers" of the wooded Chalk escarpment, and looked at the range of that escarpment round the western end of the Wealden Area. The two detachments then changed occupations; after which, having visited the church and Gilbert White's tomb, the party returned direct to Alton for the 7.42 p.m. train.

REFERENCES.

Geological Survey Map, Sheet 12.

New Ordnance Survey Map, Sheet 300.

1862. BRISTOW, H. W.—"The Geology of Parts of Berkshire and Hampshire," *Mem. Geol. Survey* (chiefly reproduced in the following).

1875. TOPLEY, W.—"The Geology of the Weald," pp. 155, 259-263, 317-319, 366, 370-372, 380, 381, 391, 423-433. *Mem. Geol. Survey*.

WHITE, GILBERT.—"Natural History and Antiquities of Selborne."

The following are the references to the Geology of the District.

PENNANT LETTER 1.—A description of the Geology of the parish, chiefly from the practical or agricultural point of view.

The quaint descriptions are so truthful that the modern geology of the district can easily be followed.

—	—	3.—The fossils of the district.
—	—	4.—The freestone and other building stones.
—	—	5.—The hollow lanes.
—	—	6.—Description of Wolmer Forest and its "fossil" wood.
The "fossil" wood is again described in BARRINGTON LETTER 59.
—	—	8.—Condition of the country in the eleventh year of Charles I. See LETTER 1 of the <i>Antiquities</i> for the same in Roman times.
—	—	9.—Comparison of the two neighbouring forests of Wolmer (Lower Greensand) and Ayles Holt (Gault), each said to support a different species of deer.

BARRINGTON LETTER 17.—A theory for the formation of "that chain of majestic mountains . . . called the South Downs."

—	—	29.—Ponds on the summits of the Chalk Downs.
—	—	35.—Earthworms and new soil.
—	—	45.—Slips of surface soil from the sides of hills.

Attention is also directed to BARRINGTON LETTERS 30 and 40, which show Gilbert White's methods of investigation to have been those of an approved modern scientist.