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EXCURSION TO GORING AND STREATLEY.

APRIL 29TH, 1916.

REPORT BY C. P. CHATWIN AND T. H. WITHERS, *Directors of the Excursion.*

FAVoured with serene weather, the party and the Directors met at Goring Station at 12.34 p.m., and proceeded northwards to Cleeve, where the quarry in the river-side grounds of “Cleeve-mede” was open to them by the kindness of Mr. Marsland A. Bennett. Before pointing out the features of this quarry, the Directors mentioned briefly the various horizons of the Chalk that would be seen during the day, and stated that the Chalk Rock was the chief object of the visit, on account of its fine development in this district. In the Cleeve-mede quarry, the exposure is of Chalk of the zone of *Rhynchonella cuvieri*, and although the face of the section is now heavily talused and much overgrown, examples of typical fossils were soon obtained.

On White Hill, to which the party went after leaving Cleeve-mede, Chalk of the succeeding zones (*Terebratulina* and *Holaster planus*) was seen in three roadside exposures. In the lowest one on the hill, from which *Terebratulina* was collected, was a conspicuous marl-band; the Directors commented on the notable persistence, in this part of the country, of this band and of another which occurred in the same zone. The Chalk Rock, an extremely hard, cream-coloured crystalline band about 6 ft. thick, containing green-coated nodules, was seen in the adjacent exposure; and farther up the hill the upper part of the *H. planus* zone was seen in the third cutting. After making brief observations on the peculiarities of the fauna of the Chalk Rock, the Directors pointed out that the highest cutting here was a fresh exposure, which showed the “Top-Rock”—a lithological development that characterised the upper limit of the *H. planus* zone in this part

of the country. In drawing attention to the features of this rock-band the Directors mentioned the Chalk Rock in comparison, and observed that, although there is a similarity in lithology due to deposition under like conditions, the peculiar fauna of the Chalk Rock (the *Reussianum* fauna) is restricted in range. In their experience only two molluscan species—*Pleurotomaria* and *Solariella gemmata*—occurred in this Top Rock, and although these forms were members of the *Reussianum* fauna, they occurred also at other horizons, notably in the Lower Chalk. Just below the Top-Rock a member of the party, Mr. G. W. Young, succeeded in obtaining a good specimen of *Pleurotomaria*.

The party walked farther up White Hill, and then through Hayslott's Wood and Great Chalk Wood, reaching lower ground again down the lane crossing Primrose Hill Shaw, above Gatehampton. In a clump of trees by this lane, just above the level of the 300 ft. contour, is a chalk cutting not previously noticed or zoned. The members stayed here for a short time to collect fossils; and among those found *Kingena lima*, and radioles of *Cidaris clavigera* tended to show that the horizon was that of the lower part of the *Micraster cor-anguinum* zone, a conclusion to which the position of the pit and the nature and banding of its flints would certainly point.

It was evident that time would not permit of an examination of the *Terebratulina* chalk in the pit above Gatehampton Farm, as arranged in the programme, so the party walked to the ferry and crossed to Basildon village, halting at Russel's Row, in the lane by milestone "8" from Reading. Here a further exposure of Chalk Rock was examined, and in it a typical member of the *Reussianum* fauna, *Cerithium cuckhamshiense* Woods, as well as two examples of *Holaster planus* were found. Several fossils, chiefly *Micraster*, were obtained from the glauconitic beds above the Chalk Rock.

The party then left for Streatley, where tea was taken in the pleasant grounds of the "Swan," by the side of the river. After tea a few of the members visited the large quarry by the side of the Wantage Road, north of Streatley. Most of the Chalk here is of the zone of *Terebratulina*, in which two marl-bands are prominent. The Chalk Rock occurs a few feet from the top, in a position very difficult of access.

The party left Goring Station for Paddington at 7.24 p.m. Miss E. Pearse acted as Excursion Secretary.

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EXCURSION TO BOURNE END.

MAY 27TH, 1916.

REPORT BY LLEWELLYN TREACHER, F.G.S., *Director of the Excursion.*

THIS Excursion was arranged to enable members to examine the district in the angle formed by the Thames and the Wycombe stream. It is a projecting spur of the Chilterns, consisting of Chalk covered on the top, and at various levels on both flanks, by thick deposits of gravel and brick-earth. On the narrow top of the ridge is the straggling hamlet of Flackwell Heath, celebrated for its cherry orchards.

A party of seventeen arrived at Wooburn Green Station about 3 o'clock, and proceeded up the narrow lane westward to the large chalk pit close by at a level of 200 ft. O.D. or 100 ft. above the bottom of the valley. The Chalk exposed is in the lowest part of the *M. cor-anguinum*-zone and is fairly fossiliferous, *Micraster* and *Echinocorys* being very abundant. Bryozoa are also common, and among many species there may be noticed *Fungella dujardini*. The flints are small and mostly solid, but some specimens are carious and others contain sponge remains.

Farther up the lane, and just above the 300 ft. contour, a nearly level platform or terrace makes quite a distinct feature along the valley side. A section in the brickyard on the right side of the road showed masses of gravel and stony brick-earth disposed in unaccountable confusion to a depth in places of at least 30 ft. The gravel, some patches of which are loose and shingly, consists mainly of rolled flints and flint pebbles. One large pebble of quartz was observed, but it had probably fallen from the surface soil. Traces of bedding could be seen in the brick-earth, but the bedding-planes were short and impersistent. On the whole the deposit looked very unlike the gravel of an ordinary river terrace.

The Director called attention to what seems to have been a small bowl-shaped excavation in the top of the section, now lined with a thin layer of black ashes, and filled in with surface soil. He considered that this was the remains of a prehistoric dwelling used when the inhabitants of the country were mere hunters, moving about from place to place in pursuit of game,