

Bookham Farm

NGR: SY 689 845



The section at Bookham Farm after a conservation session June 2011

This fine exposure of Upper Greensand and Lower Chalk also includes the type section for Bookham Conglomerate. The junctions between the four strata are marked by small information boards.

The Cann Sand at the base is poorly cemented, shelly, glauconitic sandstone with orange staining at the top and a few cherty lenses (Note: glauconite is a green coloured hydrous silicate in the mica group of minerals and is a common constituent of greensands). The Cann Sand becomes softer with depth to a point where it can be dug



amphidonte obliquata

out with a spade. It contains shells in certain layers, particularly the bivalve *Amphidonte obliquata*.

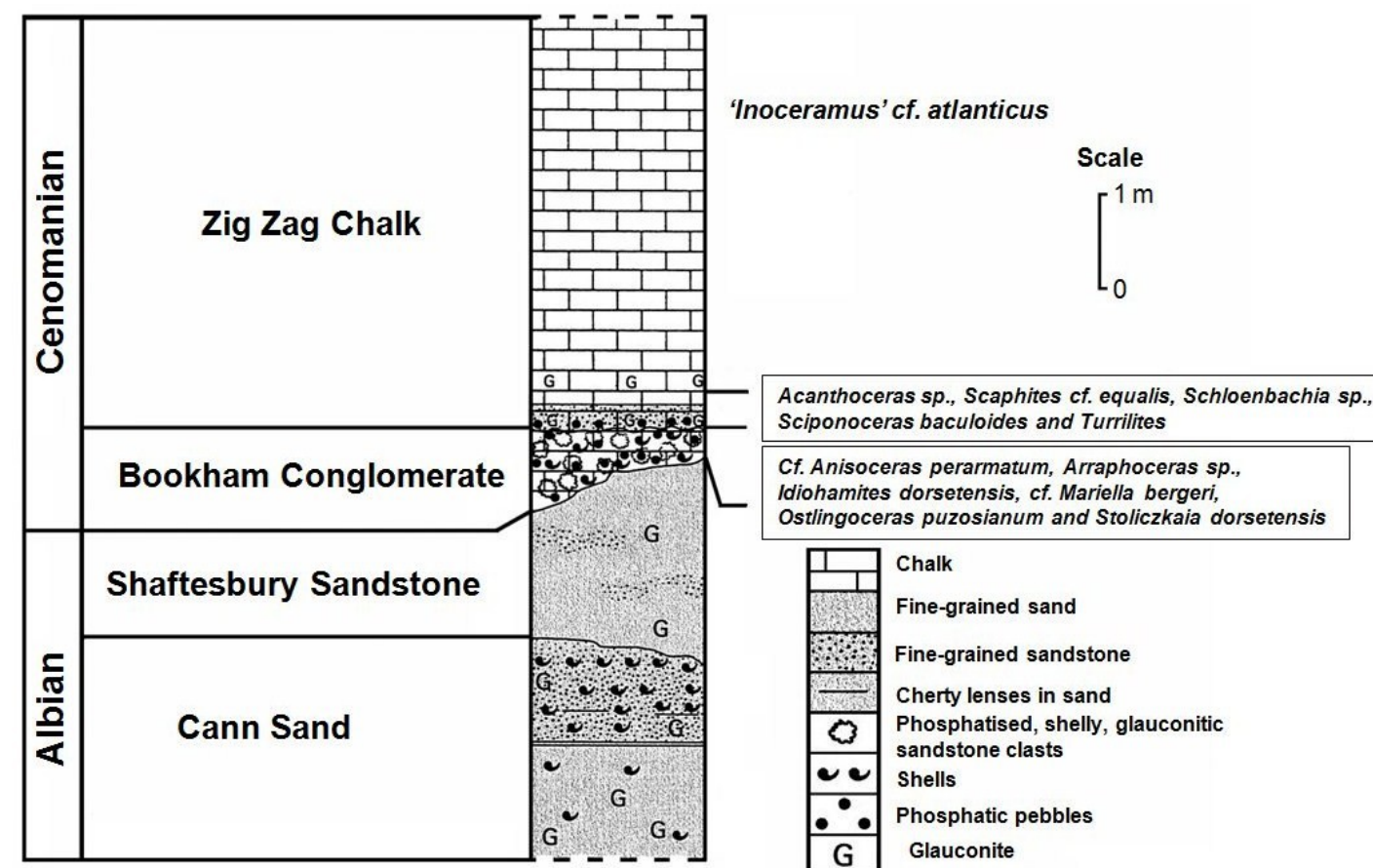
The Shaftesbury Sandstone lies conformably above the Cann Sand. It is a hard nodular sandstone with a greyish colour due to its glauconite content. The bivalve *Merklinia aspera* can be seen in the rockface. The sandstone has been used as a building stone and can be seen in some local buildings.



Merklina aspera

There is an unconformity between the Shaftesbury Sandstone and the overlying Bookham Conglomerate. The conglomerate comprises clasts of reworked sandstone in a white chalky matrix. The contact between the two is uneven with the conglomerate filling hollows in the erosion surface at the top of the Shaftesbury Sandstone. The junction with the soft, grey basal chalk above is distinct.

The Zigzag Chalk takes its name from the reference section at Zigzag Hill near Melbury Abbas. The base of the chalk is grey and sandy with some phosphatic nodules. The chalk becomes whiter higher up in the section.



Lithostratigraphic section at Bookham Farm

Adapted from Bristow, C.W. et al, (1995) Geology of Shaftesbury, Memoir Geological Survey, Fig 48