

DORSET LOCAL GEOLOGICAL SITES SURVEY

Site number	G ST90/11		
Site name	Tarrant Rawston Chalk pit		
Survey Type	Literature search and visit	Site grid	ST943067
Date of survey	1993	Surveyor	JT
Area surveyed	Disused pit.	Date of designation	17.8.1994

Summary description

Cretaceous, Upper Chalk, Tarrant Chalk

The type section of the Tarrant Chalk, Campanian Stage, *Offaster pilula* zone. The beds of Chalk show bands of flint, both horizontal and infilling fractures at high angles to the bedding. Sparse fossils present include ammonites, echinoids and microfauna.

Site description

Cretaceous, Upper Chalk, Tarrant Chalk

The type section of the Tarrant Chalk, Campanian Stage, *Offaster pilula* zone. The complete formation consists of 25 to 30m of soft to firm white, flinty Chalk that is lithologically indistinguishable from the chalk of the adjacent units. Its base is marked by a distinct feature break that is presumed to be a hardground. This feature is not evident at Tarrant Rawston, where the exposure is about 10m high. There are bands of flint, both horizontal and infilling fractures at high angles to the bedding.

The few fossils present include brachiopods, crinoids, the echinoid *Echinocorys* and the belemnite *Gonoteuthis quadrata*, plus ammonites and microfauna.

Published references

Bristow CR et al, 1995: Geology of the country around Shaftesbury. Mem.Geol.Surv.UK.