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British Upper Cretaceous stratigraphy

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Mortimore, R.N., Wood, C.J. and Gallois, R.W.
(2001) *British Upper Cretaceous stratigraphy*
Geological Conservation Review Series, 23 . Joint
Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), UK. ISBN
1861074883

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Abstract

Upper Cretaceous rocks, primarily Chalk, cover a vast area of England forming the Downs and Wolds as well as the spectacular chalk cliffs from Flamborough Head to south-east Devon. In south-east Devon and the Inner Hebrides of north-west Scotland, white chalk rests on greensands, calcareous sands and commercially important quartz sandstones. Scientific knowledge of these rocks is an essential part of planning construction



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projects, developing and protecting groundwater resources and utilising the materials such as flint, chalk and sands for industrial processes. Historically, the fossils from the Chalk, such as the echinoid *Micraster*, have made major contributions to evolutionary studies. Fossils, combined with detailed analyses of the structure and sedimentology of the Chalk and associated rocks, continue to be a focus for developing new ideas in stratigraphy, modelling past climates and investigating biodiversity and mass extinctions. Thirty-seven GCR sites across the British Isles are described and linked to numerous other sites to provide a comprehensive explanation of the geology and the geological significance of each GCR site. Individual sites vary from coastal cliffs, many kilometres long, to individual small chalk pits. Where possible, sites have been extensively re-investigated to provide the most up-to-date reviews.

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