

it has been considered advisable to draw a marked line between the two groups; the Atherfield Clay and the Lower Greensand, when the term Neocomian is not applied to them, meaning *Lower Cretaceous*, and all above them to the topmost beds of the Chalk being considered as *Upper Cretaceous strata*.

The GAULT forms the base of the *Upper Cretaceous* series—or of the Cretaceous series, for those who choose to call the Lower Greensand Neocomian. It is a stiff blue clay, about 300 feet thick in its thickest development, but sometimes it is hard to separate it lithologically from the Upper Greensand. It appears in the Isle of Wight, overlying the Lower Greensand all across the Island; and ranges round the escarpment of the Weald in the same position, with occasional signs of a kind of unconformable erosion between them; and in the centre of England, from the neighbourhood of Devizes to the Wash in Norfolk, the Gault occasionally completely overlaps the Lower Greensand in an unconformable manner. In proof of this unconformity, occasional outlying patches of the Lower Greensand occur north of the Chalk escarpment, without any visible signs of it immediately at the base of the neighbouring Upper Cretaceous strata, which there ought to be, if these formations lay everywhere conformably on the Lower Greensand.

Many Foraminifera have been found in the Gault, and a few Corals, *Cyclocyathus Fittoni*, *Trochosmilia sulcata*, and *Caryophyllia Bowerbankii*. Its sea-urchins are of the genera *Cidaris* (*C. Gaultina*), *Hemiaster* (*H. Asterias*, *H. Baileyi*), and *Diadema tumida*. It contains many Crustaceans, such as *Astacus*, *Etyus Martini*, *Diaulax Carteriana*, *Palæocorystes Stokesii*, &c. Among the Brachiopoda and Lamellibranchiate