

Section II. *Bagshot Sand.*

(a) *External Characters.* This bed consists chiefly of siliceous sand and sandstone without any cement, but occasionally includes, or is associated with, brick earth (G. Map).

The *Grey-weathers* or *Druid-stone*, of which the principal masses of Stonehenge, and those near Amesbury in Wiltshire, and the sandstones overlying the chalk in many other places, consist, do not appear to have been seen in a continuous bed, but were probably once imbedded in sand. At Stonehenge, the largest exceed seven feet in breadth, three in thickness, and fifteen in height. The sandstone is so hard as to require blasting by gunpowder, and is used for paving and building. Windsor Castle and Lord Carrington's house are constructed of it. It is also sometimes termed *Sarsden-stone* (G Notes).\*

Chalk flints are sometimes imbedded in the *Grey-weathers* of Wiltshire, (G. T. vol. ii. p. 224). And small flint pebbles often occur in the sandstone of High Wycombe, and St. Anne's Hill. At Purbright, and many parts of the surrounding country, loose blocks of a stone are found, resembling those termed the *Grey-weathers*.

(b) *Mineral contents*; none.

(c) *Organic remains.* Casts of various shells are found in this sand on Bagshot heath, but are frequently so imperfect as to preclude the possibility of ascertaining their species. Mr. Warburton, who has presented an interesting collection from that place to the Geological Society, remarks that they exhibit circumstances of agreement with those of the Upper marine formation of Paris. (C.)

(d) *Range and extent.* The term Bagshot sand is here used rather in a generic than specific sense, for it is intended to include not only the extensive covering of sand which overlies the London clay, and which is known by the name of Bagshot Heath, and that of Frimby and Purbright Heaths and other patches on the south of them in Surrey which are scarcely disjoined from it, but also the sand of Hampstead in Middlesex. No details of these considerable deposits of sand have hitherto been made public, except in regard to their extent, which is shewn on Mr. Greenough's map; whence, we may observe that in its usual form of sand, it covers the London clay from near Finchley on the north, to the south of Hampstead, and on the east of that line, forms a part of the eminences on which Highbury and Hornsey are built. The same sand is again visible

\* It is not however certain that these sandstones may not rather be referable to the sand of the plastic clay. (C.)