

At Whitley, near Allercoats in Northumberland, the lower beds alternate with shale or slate clay. One part of the bed rests upon this substance, another upon one of the sandstones of the coal series; it is again seen covering sandstone on the side of the river under Knaresborough Castle.

The conglomerate form of this limestone is very cavernous. Wokey hole in Somersetshire, which yields only to the caverns of the Derbyshire peak in extent, is entirely situated in it.\*

(*b*) *Mineral Contents.* In the conglomerate beds associated with this formation, calamine, blende, and some galena have occasionally been found, particularly near the Mendip hills; but it seems probable that these minerals may in some instances have been derived from the detritus of the older metalliferous strata of the carboniferous or mountain limestone of that neighbourhood. Many of the principal mines of that district are however entirely seated in this rock.

Galena is also mentioned as occurring in strings in the magnesian limestone of Nottingham and Durham.

Nodules of hæmatites iron-ore, used for burnishing, are imbedded in and found scattered over the surface of the under beds. At Bolsover it contains pyrites. (White Watson, G. Notes.)

\* A very singular formation of shelly chert occurs resting upon, and perhaps associated with, the calcareo-magnesian breccias covering the side and even top of the Mendip hills, in the parishes of East and West Harptree: the most abundant shells are a *Modiola*, a variety of *Ostrea gregarea*, a peculiar *Pecten* or *Lima*, and a longitudinally striated *Telliniform* bivalve; a *Plagiostoma* and *Ammonite* also occur; but the whole series are found as casts only, and frequently very obscure. The chert contains sulphate of barytes, often in great quantity, and sometimes assumes a conglomerate form, including fragments of the limestone and old red sandstone of the adjacent hills; it more rarely passes, by the intermixture of calcareous matter, into a siliceous limestone; it is associated with beds of ochreous sand.

From its first appearance it might be supposed to be an insulated and outlying mass of chert belonging to the green sand formation, but a comparison of the organic remains does not confirm this suspicion, and there is no other deposit of that formation nearer than fifteen miles. Not far from this vicinity also, a very similar chert (excepting that shells have not yet been discovered in it) is found near the Pitcot collieries (in the parish of Stratton on the fosse) interposed between the magnesian conglomerate and the incumbent red marle; and it is very probable that a more careful examination may detect the shells here also, since in the places where they certainly exist they are often very obscure. Were our knowledge of the organic remains of the magnesian limestone more perfect and full, we should be better able to determine the probable relations of this chert to it: but upon the whole the evidence seems in favour of its connection with it, although we have not felt sufficiently confident to introduce it otherwise than in a note.

The Druidical circles at Stanton Drew are built of this chert. (C.)