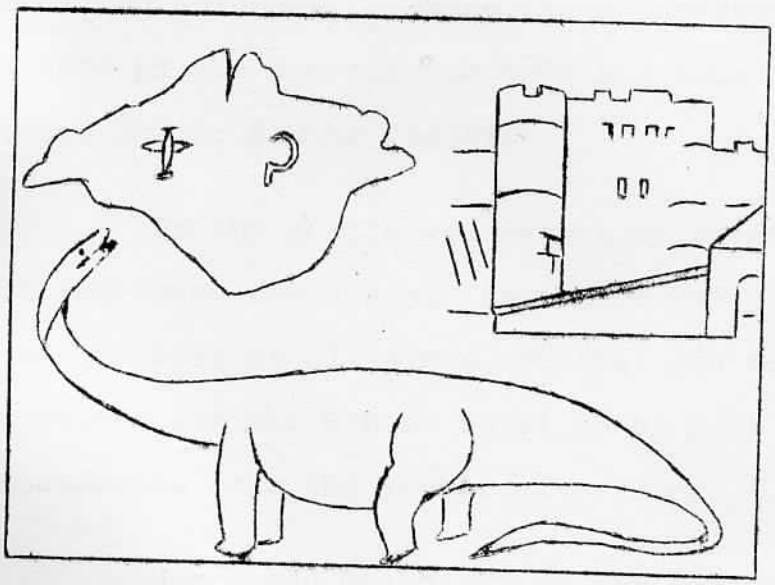
NORTHAMPTON TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

SCHOOL JOURNEY



ISLE OF WIGHT.

19TH - 26TH APRIL

1958.

F O R E W A R D

This year the Annual School Journey is to Shanklin in the Isle of Wight. As in previous occasions the journey will provide opportunity for observations of historical, geographical and scientific interest. There is an innovation in that the date of the journey for 1958 has been brought forward to the Easter Vacation.

To the people you are about to meet you will represent the School, therefore let your conduct be of the best at all times, so that you may add to the esteem for the School built up by your predecessors over the years.

May I add my thanks to all concerned for the effort and organisation that go to make our School Journey possible.

A pleasant and profitable time to you all.

SCHOOL JOURNEY TO ISLE OF WIGHT, APRIL 1958.

The Staff Members accompanying the party are:-

Mr. S. Guffogg, Leader
Mr. H. Bamber
Mr. A. Clements
Mr. B. Nokes.

GROUP 1	GROUP 2	GROUP 3	GROUP 4
Mr. BAMBER	Mr. CLEMENTS	Mr. GUFFOGG	Mr. NOKES
Freeman, E.	Green R.W.	Pittams, A.	Battison, G
Winter T.	Austin R	Redley, M.	French, D.
Breakspear N	Brown I	Basely A	Inwood D.
Douglas J.	Webb, A	Pearson R.	Laughton G.
Hillson, R.	Culley, W.	Wilmer J.	Linsley H.
Smith R.	Blundell T.	York P.	Eustace A.
Peach P.	Paul A.	Jones F.	Hagger, P.
Carroll L.	Hames, A.	Gibbins R.	Meredith B
Moseley G.	Church R.	Cumberpatch B	Harrison, R.
Heffernan T.	Pointer P.	Smith A	Pearson A.
Spice A.	Peacock C.	Stephens, E.	Lacey M.
Wingrove R.	Thomas P.	Ashby D	Forth J.
De Bell, B.	James H	Brewer N.	Wigley D.
Thomas T.	Browning M.	Sixton W	Thorpe J.
Drinkwater	P. Horn P.	Ward, T.	

In addition, the following prefects will accompany the party:-

Cockerill, A., Young P., and Johnson P.

WEEK'S PROGRAMME

SATURDAY: Journey to Landguard Manor, Shanklin, Isle of Wight.

SUNDAY: am. Church.

pm. Walk - Boniface Down and Ventnor.

MONDAY: am. Carisbrooke Castle.

pm. Walk to Freshwater Bay.

TUESDAY: am. Brading.

pm. Walk to Sandown.

WEDNESDAY: Day trip to Southampton (Post Office: Union Castle Liner).

THURSDAY: Day tour of island.

FRIDAY: am. Bathing (weather permitting)

pm. Shopping (Cowes).

SATURDAY: Return to Northampton.

DAILY ROUTINE

7.30 am. Rising Bell.

8.15 am. Roll Call.

8.30 am. Breakfast.

9.15 am. Inspection of Dormitories.

9.30 am. Issue of Pocket Money by Group Masters.

9.45 am. Assembly for Morning Programme.

1.00 pm. Lunch.

2.00 pm. Assembly for Afternoon Programme.

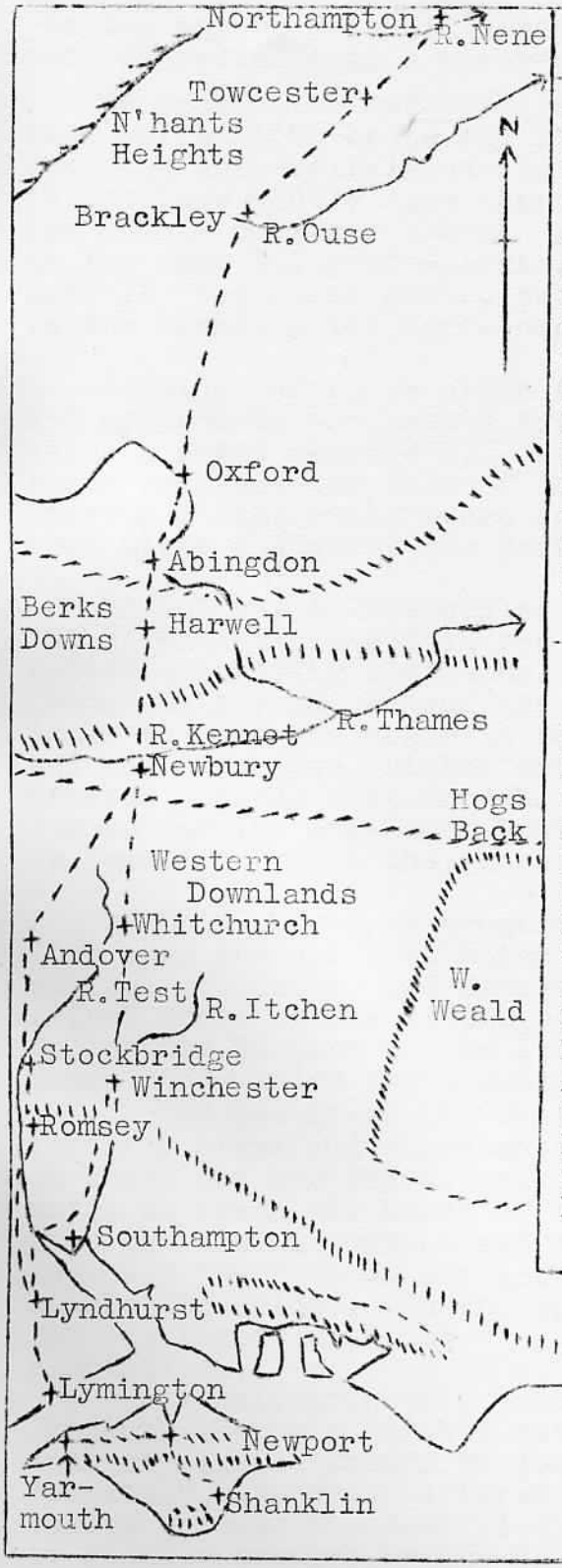
4.30 pm. Tea.

7.30 pm. Supper.

9.30 pm. Roll Call and Assembly for Evening Prayers. Bed.

10.30 pm. Lights Out. Silence!

NORTHAMPTON - ISLE OF WIGHT AND RETURN



PLACE	MILES	TIME Arr.	TIME Dep.
Northampton	-		
Towcester	10		
Brackley	21		
Oxford	42		
Abingdon	48		
Harwell	54		
Newbury	68		
Whitchurch	80		
Winchester	93		
Southampton	104		
Lyndhurst	110		
Lymington	120		
Ferry	-		
Yarmouth	124		
Newport	134		
Shanklin	144		-

THE RETURN

Shanklin	-	-	
Newport	10		
Yarmouth	20		
Ferry	-		
Lymington	24		
Lyndhurst	34		
Romsey	43		
Stockbridge	53		
Andover	62		
Newbury	79		
Harwell	93		
Abingdon	99		
Oxford	105		
Brackley	126		
Towcester	137		
Northampton	147		-

THE ROAD TO THE ISLE.

On leaving Northampton we go to Towcester and cross the Watling Street, A5, that Roman road from London across the Midlands to Chester. Then we cross the low divide from the Nene to the Great Ouse River Basin at Brackley. On the way we pass Silverstone where the aerodrome has been converted into a motor-car race track.

We soon enter Oxfordshire on the way to its county town which might be termed Northampton's successor since when the university students were expelled from our town in the late Middle Ages they settled at Oxford to begin the famous colleges there. Its many churches have given it the name "City of Spires". Unkind persons from Cambridge call it "the other place, suburb of Cawley," for at Cawley is the Morris Motor Works employing over 17,000 work-people.

Outside Oxford we cross the R. Thames into Berkshire and proceed to the market town of Abingdon where the Thames makes a great meander S.E. of the town. Going further south we cross the Vale of the White Horse, named from the carving on the chalk scarp edge, and we are confronted by that steep N edge of the Berkshire Downs, composed of chalk.

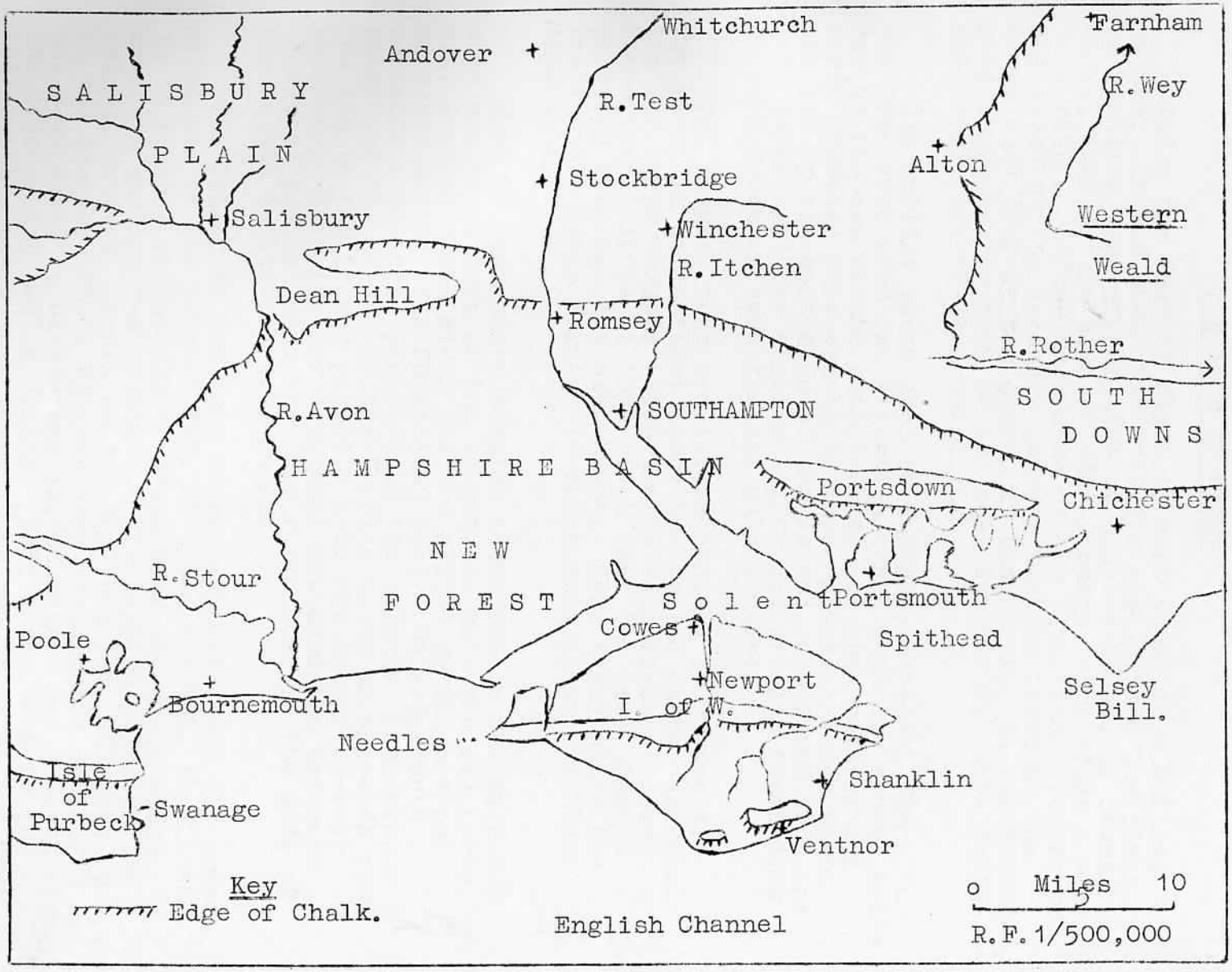
On the way to Newbury we cross the wooded vale that the R. Kennet has cut in the chalk downlands into the softer underlying claylands. At Newbury we cross over the London Bath road, A4 and the London-Bristol railway. Again we note the contrast between the wooded, enclosed vale and the more open, higher downlands on the chalk when we proceed towards Whit church. On the hilltops are the "camps" of the pre-Roman British settlements and the barrows or tumuli in which they buried their dead.

At Whit church we cross over the London-Exeter S.R. and then pass through undulating country to Winchester, ancient capital of Wessex, and famous for its cathedral and King Alfred whose statue stands here. Leaving the city we follow the W. bank of the Itchen valley along one of the Roman roads which focussedon Venta Belgarum (Roman Winchester).

We now leave the chalk and come onto the late Tertiary clays and sandstones of the Hampshire Basin. We shall not see the S. end of the basin, or syncline, until we reach the heart of the Isle of Wight. Soon we pass the wooded commons and suburbs of Southampton as we bye-pass the town on our left to cross the R.Test at the new Totton Bridge. On the way to Lymington we go through the New Forest with its plantations.

A half-hour trip takes us across the Solent to Yarmouth the only sizable settlement in the west of the Isle of Wight. Thence we journey to the island's "capital", Newport. Afterwards we follow the Medina river valley through the central Chalk ridge and a few more miles of flatter country brings us to our journey's end at Shanklin.

GENERAL MAP - THE HANTS BASIN IN ITS CHALK FRAMEWORK



THE ISLE OF WIGHT

Today the Isle of Wight is best known as a holiday centre. It was Queen Victoria who popularised the place by spending some of her time at Osborne House, E. Cowes, where, indeed, she died on 22nd January, 1901 after a very long reign. Before then some of the Victorian literary men had lived on the Island - Charles Dickens lived at the house next door to the church at Benchurch. In the churchyard there is the tomb of the poet Swinburne. Both Keates and Longfellow visited Shanklin.

The holiday towns such as Ventnor, Sandown, Shanklin and Ryde date from the Victorian times when the annual holiday by the sea became fashionable, and when railway and ferry provided easy access to those places. These towns are all on the east side of the island, sheltered from the S.W. gales by their backing cliffs and priding themselves on long hours of sunshine and mild winters.

The largest town and island capital is "Newport." The river is still tidal there but is too narrow and shallow for large vessels which use the anchorages at Cowes down-river. It is at that place that the world-famous yachting club has its club-house. Here takes place the fashionable Cowes Regatta in which many classes of boat take part.

Just as the modern seaside towns are in the Eastern, more sheltered part of the island, so were the old ports, e.g. Brading whose river has now silted up the harbour approach making it a fossilised port. Only Yarmouth occupies a Westerly position in the island. The shingle banks and the hazard of the Needles makes an approach from the sea to the island directly into the Solent a risky business. Shipping for long past has used the Spithead (Eastern) channel into the Solent for this is the side of the island to leeward S.W. gales.

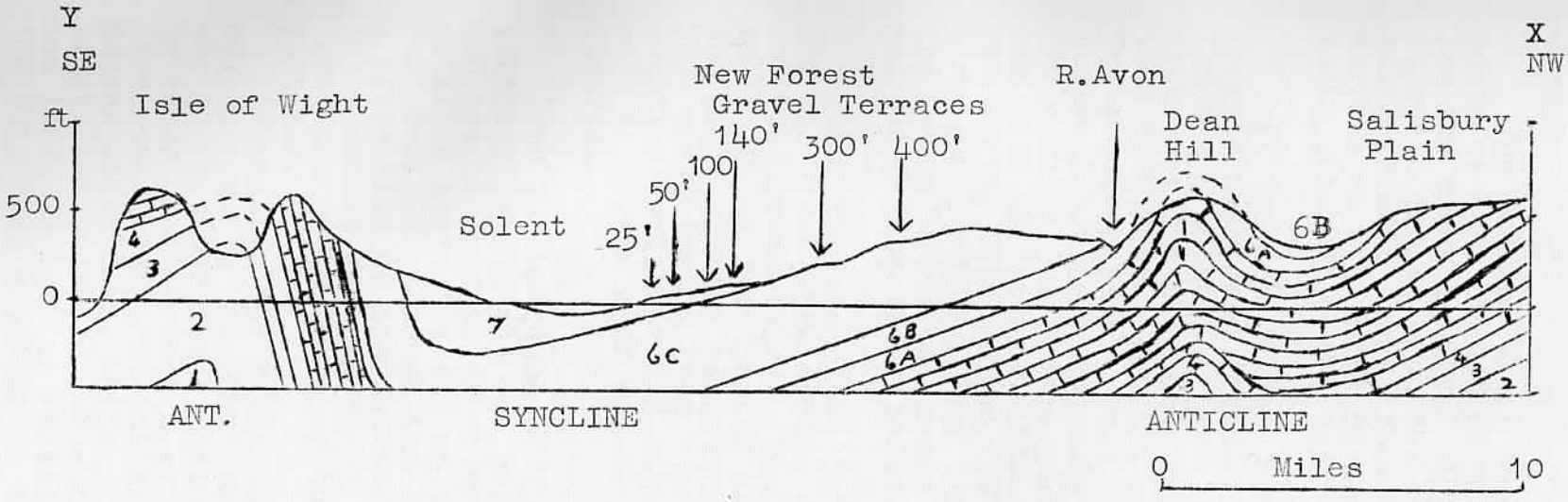
The Island is not very large, approximately 147 square miles and at the longest W-E, 22 miles and N-S, 13 miles. It is roughly rhomboidel in shape with the chalk ridge making a central W-E backbone. The highest point in the island, however, occurs at St. Boniface Dam, 787 feet. O.D., in the Southern Chalk Plateau area overlooking Ventnor. It has been usual to divide the island into E and W parts along the line of the Medina Valley. This dates back to the thirteenth century when these were the areas of the East and West Medine Hundreds.

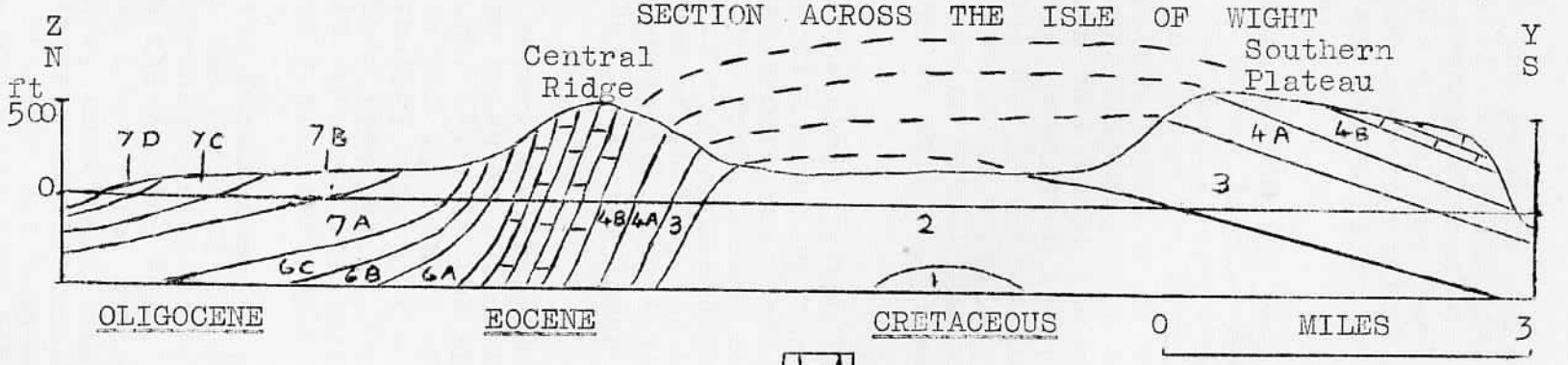
TABLE OF GEOLOGY (SOLID)

Age	PERIOD	DIVISION	WIDTH IN FEET.	No.	DESCRIPTION
FOR QUATERNARY ROCKS SEE DRIFT GEOLOGY.					
TERTIARY	Pliocene Miocene	NO DEPOSITS.			
	Oligocene	Hemstead Bembridge Osborne Headon	255 140 100 200	7D 7C 7B 7A	Varied Marl & LST Clay & Marl Clay & Sands
	Eocene	Barton Bracklesham Bagshot London Clay Reading	350 600 120 350 100	6C 6B 6A	Mostly SST and some clay Clay & SST Varied
CRETACEOUS	Chalk	-	1,600	5	Grey-White Flinty Chalk
	Albion	Upper Greensand Gault	200 100	4B 4A	Sandstone Stiff Clay
	Lower Greensand	Carstone. Sandrock Ferrugineous Sands. Atherfield Clay	400 - 800	3D 3C 3B 3A	Varied Sandstones Blue Clay
	Wealden	-	1,500	2	Shales. Marls.
SECONDARY AGE ROCKS OF THE JURASSIC PERIOD (No.1) UNDERLYING THE CRETACEOUS.					

This table represents about 100,000,000 years.

GENERALISED GEOLOGICAL SECTION OF HANTS BASIN





7D	Hemstead
7C	Bembridge
7B	Osborne
7A	Headon

6C	Sands
6B	London Clay
6A	Reading

	Chalk
4B	Up. Greensand
4A	Gault
3	Low. Greensand
2	Wealden

1	Jurassic

THE BUILDING OF THE ISLE OF WIGHT

The Isle of Wight forms the Southern end of the large basin or syncline of Hampshire. The geological story of how the rocks achieved this present character begins in Jurassic times, when the rocks of our own country were being formed. These rocks are nowhere exposed at the surface in the Hants Basin but form a floor to those later rocks which form the surface.

At the end of the Jurassic period the whole area was largely swamp and lagoon near to sea level. Many rivers flowing from higher land in the West spread their load of silt over the area and this now forms the Weald Clay, over 1600 feet thick, and the earliest deposits of the Cretaceaus period. Tree trunks washed down into the delta became fossilised and some can be seen at low water near Brook Chine (reference 39/84). Some such vegetable matter has been half turned into coal and is called lignite. It was during this period that the large reptiles, the dinosaurs, plodded over the region having footprints in the mud which dried in the sun so that they became fossiled and still look fresh today.

Then the sea broke into the whole region from the South and the rocks show marine deposition during the remainder of Cretaceous times. The sea progressed further inland to the NW as time passed and the rocks formed changed from the clays and the sandstones of the Greensand periods to the pure chalk formed from billions of shells, the houses of countless molluscs and other shellfish. At this time climate must have been much warmer than today for these animals to flourish.

The Eocene (dawn of the recent age) heralds the Tertiary period and the region began to suffer considerable geological changes of structure. Firstly the area was uplifted above the sea en bloc and an estuary opening to the East drained (through its tributary rivers) the whole area a proto-type of the Solent River (see map). The dinosaurs, ichthyosaurs and ammomites die out and life begins to assume forms nearer to those of today e.g. birds replace flying reptiles.

Sometimes the rocks of the Eocene show an estaurine origin e.g. in the sandstones and marls of the Bagshot beds whilst at other times marine transgression is revealed by bands of limestone E.g. in the Reading Beds. Alum Bay (see geological section) shows a wonderful succession of Eocene sandstones, marls, clays, limestones, lignite and limestones produced when this area oscillated between sea and land. A similar variety of rocks has been formed on the Oligocene although on the whole the land appeared to be undergoing an uplift. In fact this was the prelude to Miocene and Pliocene times when the whole area,

(English Channel included) was land so that no deposits have come down from them - the land was being eroded by the rivers and the material swept away down river probably by a river emptying into the Atlantic Ocean.

During these times the Alps were created with great convulsions of the land which affected the Hampshire Region five hundred miles away. The rocks were arched up into anticlines and, between, bowed down into synclines. A glance at the general geological sections of the region will show that the area is largely a great syncline with a much steeper Southern limb (where the rocks have been pushed into a nearly vertical position in the classic Central Isle of Wight "monocline"). The youngest, Oligocene rocks are preserved in the centre of the basin which is partly the North of the Island and partly under the Solent. An upfold or anticline was formed in the Southern half of the Island and erosion then has stripped off the younger rocks, exposing the older Greensands and Weald clay in the centre of the anticline. The Southern limb of this upfold forms the Chalk Plateau of the Southern part of the Island e.g. the hills behind Shanklin and Ventnor.

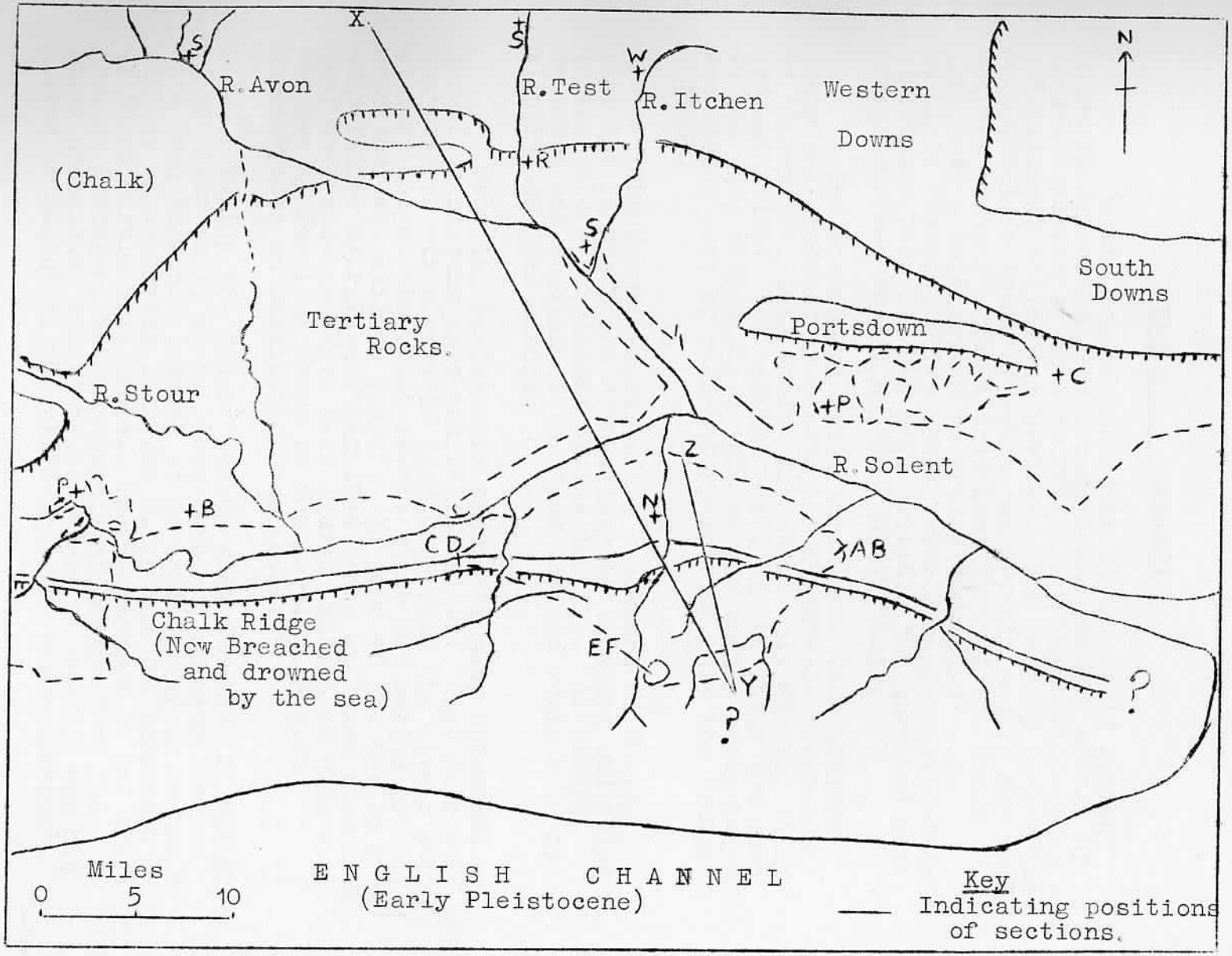
The map of the Solent River attempts to show the landscape in the early Pleistocene period (which succeeds the Pliocene, and begins the Quaternary Age). The rivers were approximately in their present-day form but the sea was much further south so that the Isle of Wight was part of the Mainland and the central chalk ridge was connected to its counterpart on the present Mainland in the so-called "Isle of Purbeck".

Such rivers as the West R. Yar in the Isle of Wight are obviously truncated and must have flowed from further South where is now the sea. Also the Medina River and E. Yar River are too small to have cut their water gaps through the Central Chalk Ridge and Southern Chalk Plateau.

This area was not glaciated but the climate must have been Tundra - like with icebergs on the sea and Polar bears on the land. Some of the Coombe deposits (see Drift Geology) were formed by icy sludge slipping down valley. The succession of plateau and river gravels from 400 feet O.D. to below sea level illustrate a changing sea level during the Ice Age.

In Neolithic times (10,000 - 5,000 B.C.) the land gradually sank (or the sea level rose) to the present sea level and the bottom parts of the river valleys were converted into wide estuaries e.g. Solent and Southampton Water. At about the time when the English Channel was united with the North Sea at the Straits of Dover by the breaching of the chalk (North Downs - Boulognais), the sea broke through the Purbeck - Needles chalk ridge and converted the Isle of Wight into one of the British Isles. Since then there has been gain and loss of land to the sea. Thus the chalk ridge is being worn away at the Needles (see the diagram of their formation) and new land has joined Hurst Castle Island to the Mainland (see the diagram of the forming of Hurst Castle Spit).

BASIN OF THE ANCIENT RIVER SOLENT - 1,000,000 B.C ?



DRIFT GEOLOGY.

On the top of the rocks of the solid geology already described lies a ragged and patchey mantle of Drift deposits of more recent, Quaternary origin from the Pleistocene and Recent periods. Not usually very thick, nevertheless their presence can greatly modify the soils of the region. Thus a driftless part of the Chalk may have a soil suited to grassy "downland" e.g. S.Chalk Plateau, while chalk covered by clay-with-flints drift may have a heavy soil suitable for woodland e.g. BrightoneDown Forest on the Central Ridge.

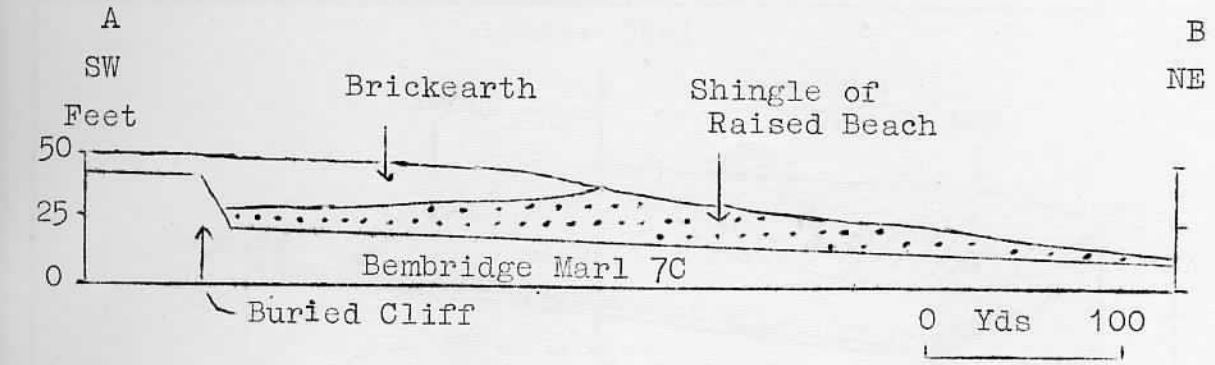
The wastage of Chalk during the last million years has produced in places a considerable thickness of clay-with-flints whilst elsewhere only angular flint gravels exist. The soluble parts of the chalk and much of the clay matrix which 'glues' the chalky parts together are eroded away by rain-water, leaving only the 'lumps' - flint.

The Coombe deposits are a mixture of chalk, clay and flints borne down-valley by slumping and slipping in the colder conditions of the Ice Age. Alternate freezing and thawing of the land surface would help the slipping of this sludge.

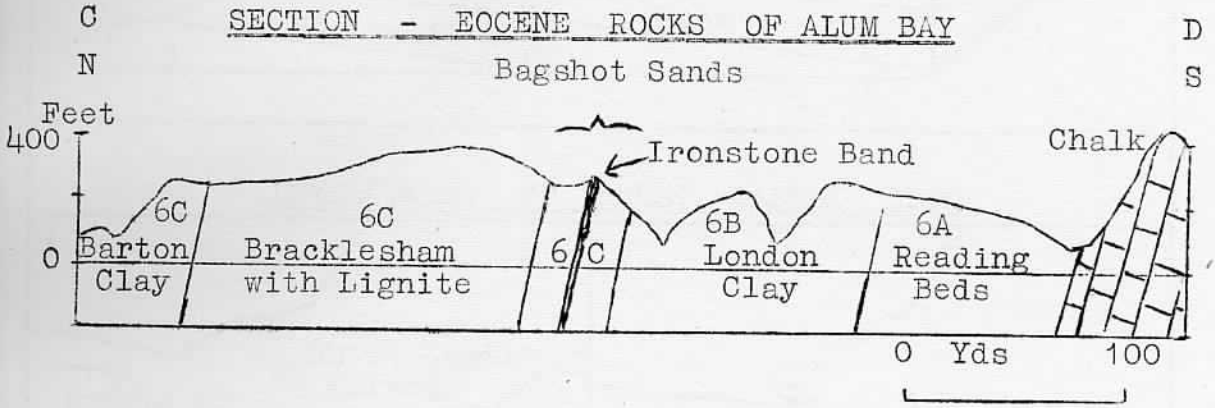
From the Pleistocene occur the many stretches of gravel on plateau tops and valley sides. They represent the coarser river gravels laid down when the rivers were at that height above sea level(which has varied greatly over the last million years). In some of the valley grav--els flints of Palaeolithic (Old Stone Age) and (New Stone Age) Neolithic men have been found. Raised beaches e.g. the one at Foreland shown in the section AB also demonstrates an oscillating sea level.

During the Recent period such deposits as alluvium (fine river mud), peat, blown sand and shingle beaches have been formed. Indeed, it is still going on as the sitting of estuaries like the E.Yar and the formation of Hurst Castle Spit shore. The Blown Sand on the cliff tops at Blackgang Chine consists of grains from the Lower Greensand, and it is a wind-borne deposit and has helped to sculpture the cliff-face by 'sand-blasting'.

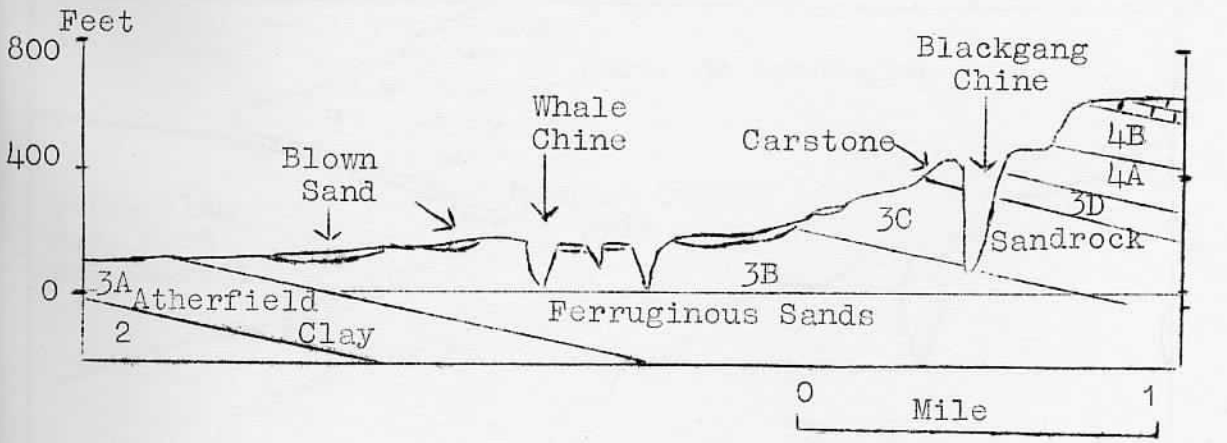
SECTION - RAISED BEACH AT FORELAND



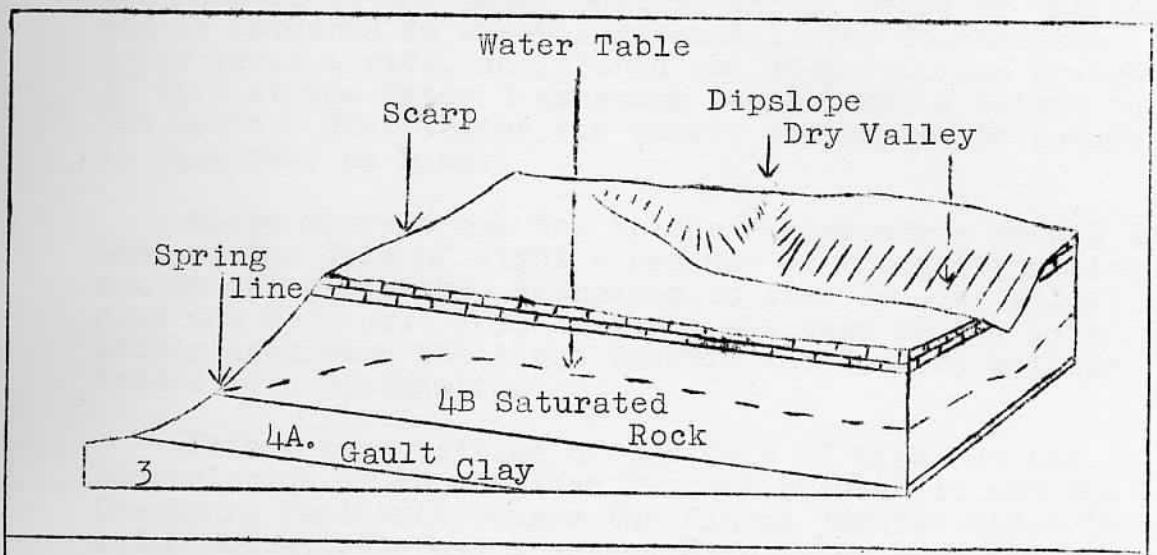
SECTION - EOCENE ROCKS OF ALUM BAY



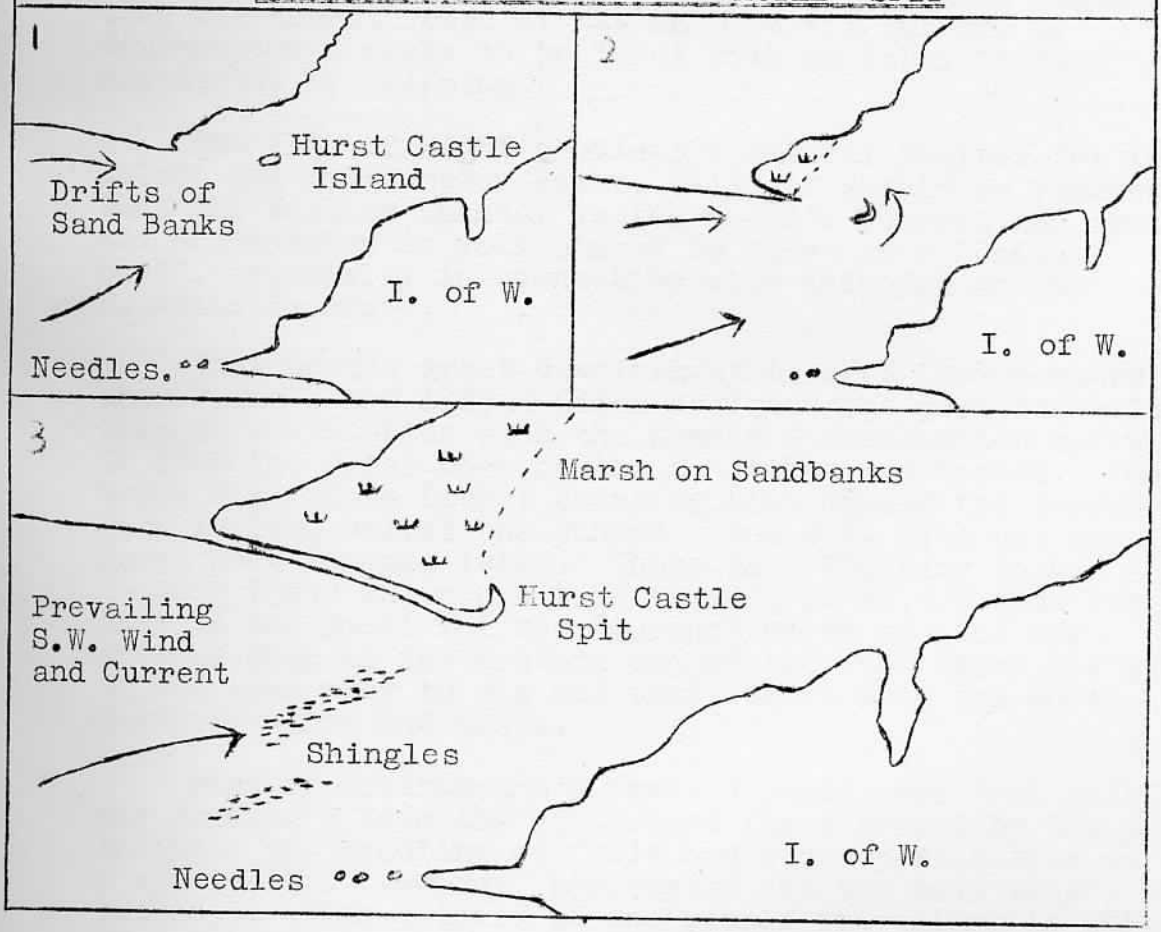
SECTION - S W COAST : ATHERFIELD - ST. CATH'S.



SOME SCARPLAND TERMS.



DEVELOPMENT OF HURST CASTLE SPIT



SOUTHAMPTON

"BRITAIN'S FRONT DOOR"

Southampton is the chief port on the S. coast of England and is favoured in several respects. The Southampton Water gives a wide, sheletered and deep (minimum draught 35 feet at low Water) approach several miles inland to the Docks. Fast trains can convey passengers to London in just over an hour.

Large vessels use the Spithead approach - around the East of the Isle of Wight - because of the difficulties due to shingle banks, increased in size by S.W. gales, near the Needles. This E. route was used in the late Middle Ages when the large Venetia and Genoese galleys traded with Southampton.

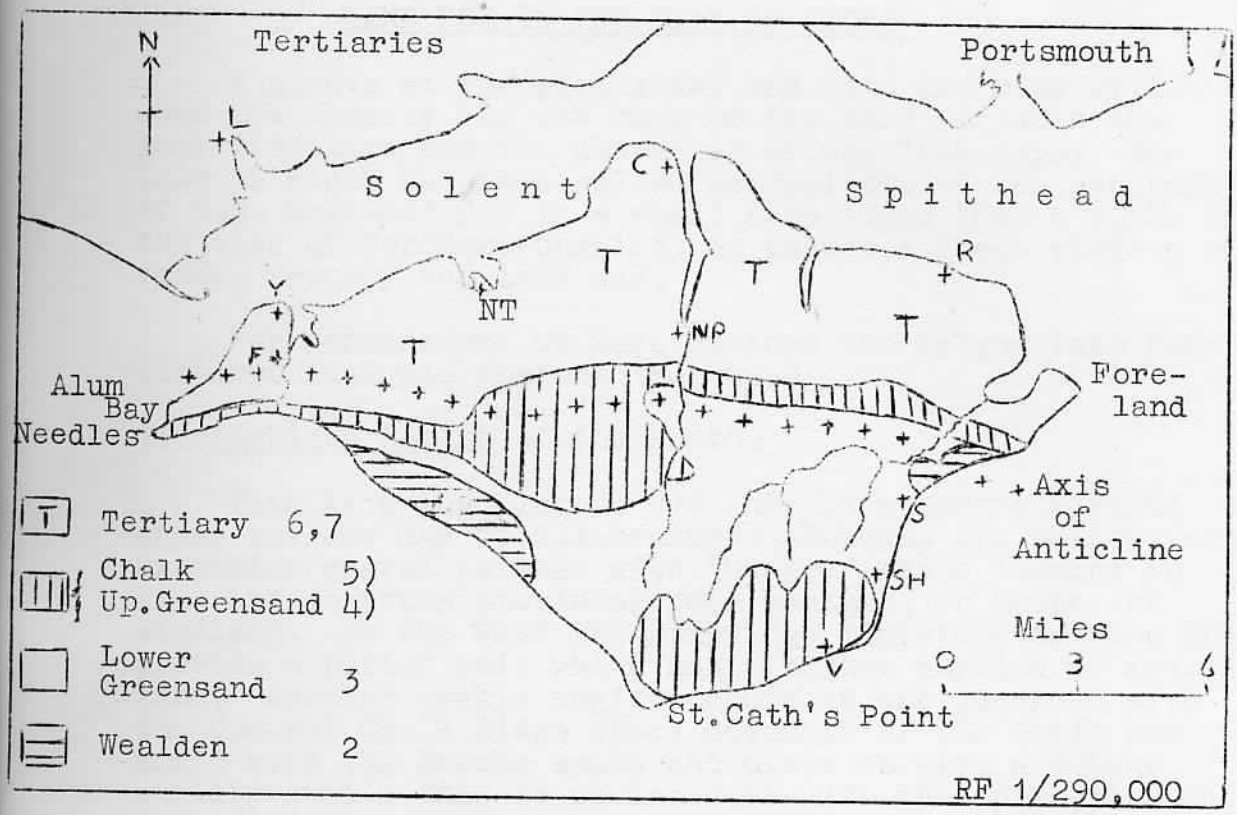
Either the position of the Isle of Wight or the constriction of the English Channel between it and the Cherbourg Peninsula causes the famous "double tide" by which Southampton has a second High Water Mark two hours after the first. This is of great value in the tricky manoeuvring of vessels into dry dock - a process which may take two hours. Also it has enabled all but one of Southampton's docks to be tidal with no locks to be negotiated by shipping.

The Isle of Wight provides a natural shelter for the Solent and Southampton Water. Also it should be remembered that the English Channel is the world's busiest sea route and Southampton is well placed to serve as a 'Channel port', especially in connection with shipping on the N. Atlantic route.

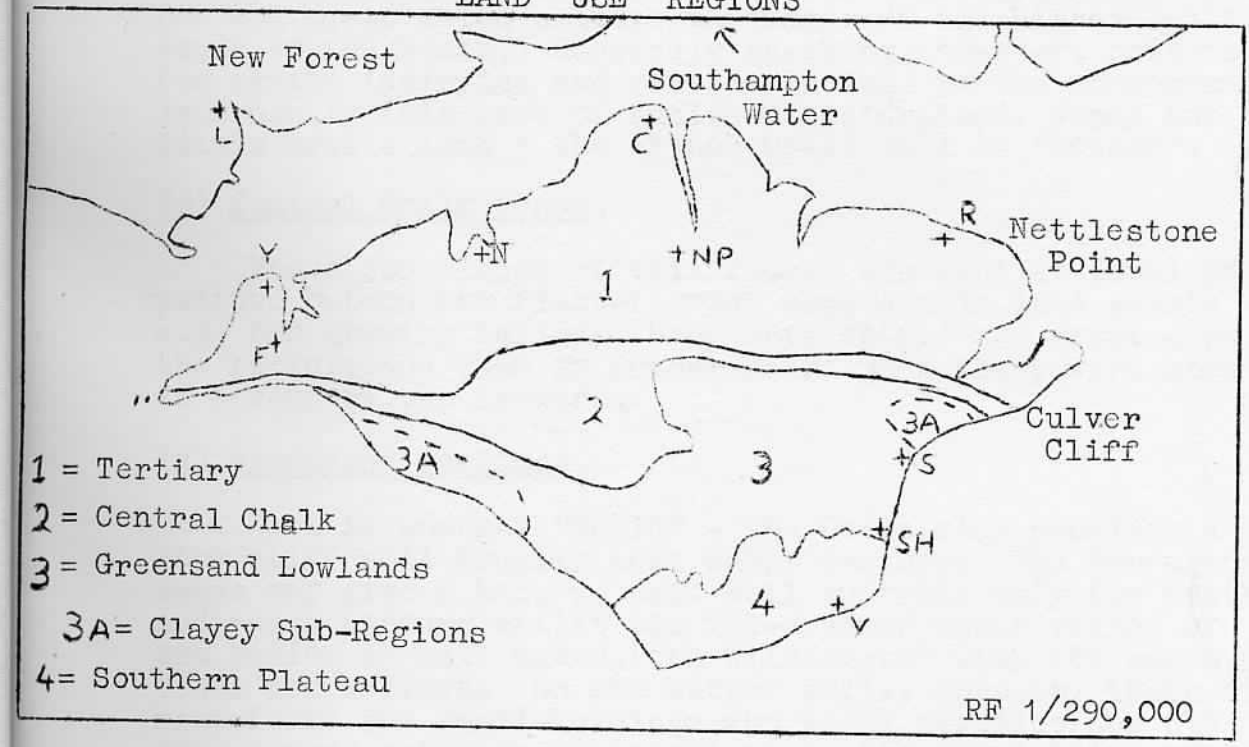
This port's great development occured last century when Francis and Alfred Giles designed the port installations in conjunction with the London - Southampton railway. In 1842 the Outer Dock on the R. Itchen was opened. The Royal Mail Steam Packet Shipping Line opened the Empress Dock in 1890 whilst the Cunard and U.S. Line use the Ocean Dock (opened 1912). There is a floating dock (opened 1924) which can take vessels of 60,000 tons but that is too small for the "Queens" which use the new graving dock at the Western end of the Test River new quays. It has been easy to dig out these docks from the soft Tertiary sands and clays.

Much of Southampton's trade depends upon fast railway transport into the hinterland (area served by the port inland)- the handling of fruit and other perishables is a speciality. However, passengers are the main source of business. Over a third of the people travelling to and from Britain do so from Southampton so that it is well-named "front door".

SOLID GEOLOGY



LAND USE REGIONS



LAND USE IN THE ISLE OF WIGHT

A glance at the geological and land use maps will show how closely the use made of the land reflects the rock structure and the character of the landscape. The Isle of Wight has been called an "epitome of the geography of S.E. England" for in a small area (less than a sixth of the size of Northamptonshire) is packed a great variety of rocks, scenery and land use.

For convenience we have divided the island into four distinct land use regions (see map)

(1) Tertiary Region of the North.

This is a low plateau cut into by numerous streams whose valleys may be ill-drained. Between the valleys are extensive gravel patches with "hungry" soils lacking in lime and so often providing poor pasture, or heath, or woodland. In the West the Bembridge limestone outcrop does provide a better soil which has a higher portion of arable land. Another arable region occurs at the junction with the Central Chalk Ridge where downwash of the Chalk has mixed with the Eocene sands and clays to give a better quality soil. This is co-incident with the springline and the settlements associated there. Here are grain root-crops for the sheep which pasture in summer of the higher Chalk lands to the South. Generally speaking, however, pasture for cattle (dairying and meat-producing) is the commonest land use in this area of enclosed pastureland, woods but little arable land - the French would call it "bocage".

(2) Central Chalk Lands.

The steep slopes of this ridge are kept as downland pasture but on the flatter areas some arable land exists e.g. for growing barley. Many more cattle are grazing on the pastureland than in former years when sheep were more in favour by the farmers.

(3) Greensand Lowlands.

Here is another "Weald" - the Gault clay provides a very stiff soil usually kept under pasture. The Ferruginous sands may give a hungry, acid soil suitable only for heath and rough pasture whilst the ill-drained upper valley of the Medina in well named,"the Wilderness".with its marsh, reeds and willows. On the better soils, however, there are many farms and small-holdings who still practice the old four-course rotation in association with the folding of sheep in spring on the root-crops.

The sub-regions marked 3A on the land use map are low plateaux consisting of Atherfield clays and Wealdon marls and clays, overlain by valley gravels in part crossed by numerous streams which cut chines through the cliff coast, and notable for its grassland except where the river gravels on the valley terraces give a lighter soil more amenable to ploughing.

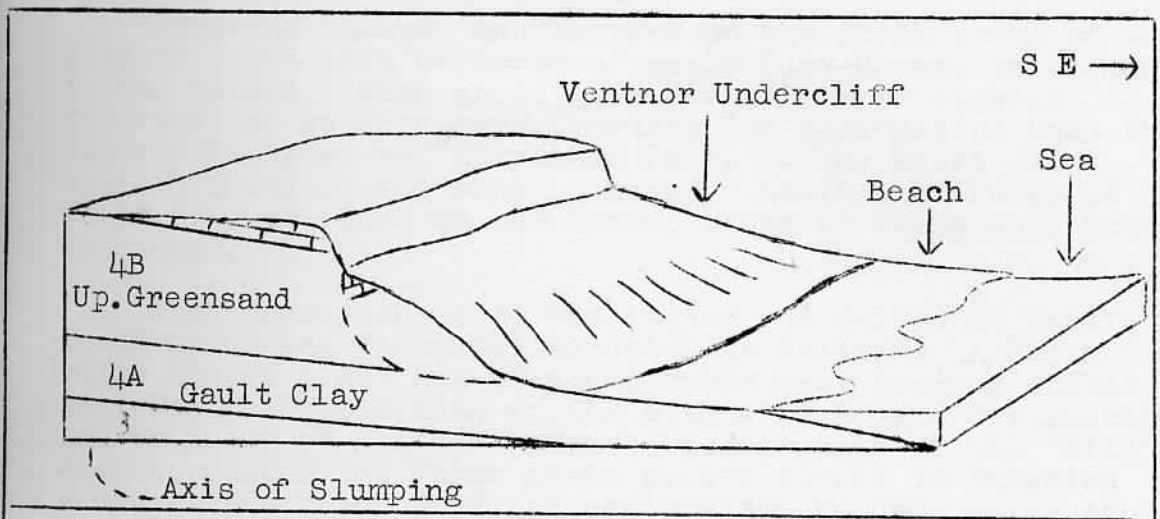
(4) Southern Plateau.

This is divided by streams or wind-gaps (indicating the valleys of ancient S-N flowing rivers) into three blocks. There is a slight dip of the Chalk and Upper Greensand to the South, and at places like Ventnor this has led to slumping - see block diagram over the Gault clay. Much of this country remains downland pasture and provides a fine scenic background to the resorts of the SE coast.

SHANKLIN.

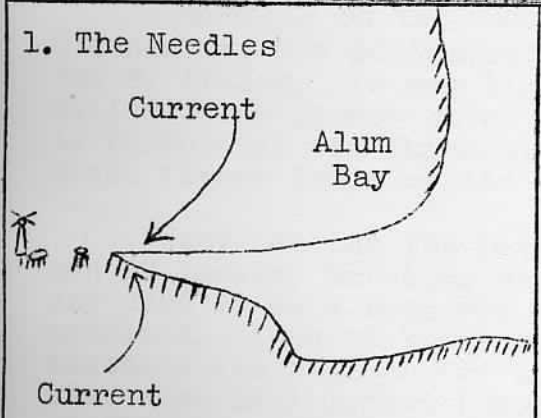
The old village of Seneliz (=Shanklin) mentioned in the Domesday Book 1086 AD was the fore-runner of the pre-Victorian seaside resort. It lies at the head of the Chine a little inland. "Chine" means a steep-sided valley cut by a short swift brook running into the sea. With a fall in the level of the water table of the permanently saturated rock under-ground, such chines may be dry i.e. have no brook. The modern resort has grown over the last hundred years or so when the railway gave access to Cowes and so by ferry to the mainland. This part is necessarily centred on the "front".

FORMATION OF VENTNOR UNDERCLIFF.

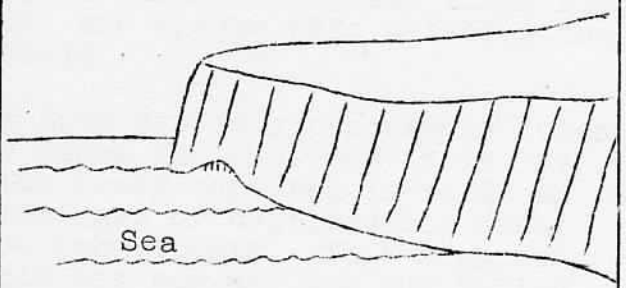


FORMATION OF THE NEEDLES.

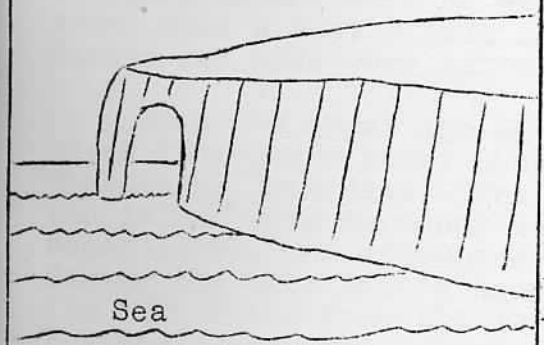
1. The Needles



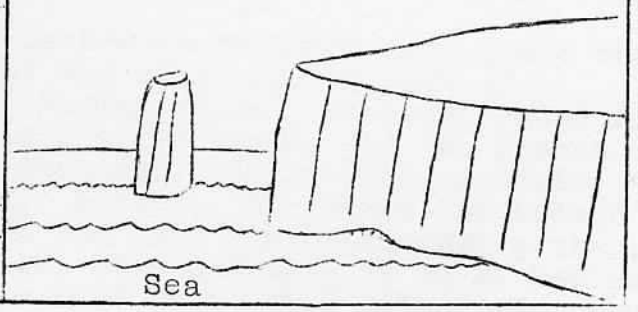
2. The Currents form caves at Base of Cliff (Both Sides)



3. Two Caves Meet - Natural Arch Forms



4. Arch Falls - A Stack which will be a "Needle" and will be gradually destroyed.



HISTORICAL OUTLINE

Numerous "camps" and barrows on the Chalk rocks of the Isle of Wight give evidence of early (pre-Roman) settlement in the island. Such areas were probably more lightly forested and so were more favoured for agriculture than the densely forested wet claylands (e.g. on the Gault or Wealden beds) or the sandy, "hungry" heath-pine forested soils of such rocks as the Eocene sands or Feruginous Lower Greensand.

The Romans conquered the island and called it Vectis in AD 43 during Claudius' invasion of Britain. A Roman villa (large farm) has been excavated near Brading whilst Carisbrooke Castle lies on the site of a Roman fort guarding the SE coast of Britain against the assaults of the "wild" Angles, Saxons and Jutes whose piracy turned to invasion and settlement in the fifth century AD when the Jutes took the island, calling it Weet (=our Wight).

Meanwhile on the mainland the Romans established a port Clausentum, now Southampton, at the head of the estuary of the R. Itchen. It was linked to London by the Roman road called Stane Street which followed the Portsdown chalk ridge to Pulborough via Chichester, and thence NNE, skirting the dense forest lands of the Weald.

"Weet" during the Dark Ages saw many conquerors Jutes, men of Wessex, Mercians and Danes who captured it in 787 and used it as a base for the booty captured in raids on the mainland. Each of these exchanges of overlordship meant massacre and plunder for the inhabitants. This happened also when Earl Godwin (Harold his son was the one killed at the battle of Senlac 1066 AD) was outlawed by King Edward the Confessor.

At the Norman Conquest William Fitz-Osborne became overlord of the Isle of Wight. He was Earl of Hereford and spent only a little time in the island itself. Carisbrooke Castle was made very strong in this period of History.

When the great age of Cathedral building took place the stone from Quarr (near Ryde) was used e.g. in part of Winchester Cathedral. The "Norman peace", however, ended for the island when Normandy was lost to France and the French began raids, and attempted invasion, on the isle of Wight during the late Middle Ages. Edward I purchased the island for 6000 marks from the lady who held the overlordship then. Beacons, warnings of invasion, were set up - 13 in E. Medine and 16 in W. Medine. It was said that every island man needed to be a soldier.

Historical Outline

In 1377 the French did capture the whole island except Carisbrooke Castle but when they tried again in 1404 one of the island priests came to discuss terms with them for so long that messengers had time to get help from English troops stationed at Portsmouth. The French were not the only menace since the Barbary Pirates of N. Africa sailed as far as this island to plunder it.

The English retalliated by invasions of France e.g. in the Hundred Years War. The sheltered roadstead of Spithead was a favourite essembly place for the invasion fleets, and Portsmouth becomes a great naval dockyard and port - it was burnt by the French in 1338.

1545 saw another French attack which bottled up the English navy in Portsmouth. Since the English wisely refused to fight in the open Solent the French vented their anger on the Isle of Wight. However, the islanders fought a 'guerilla warfare' and forced the French to withdraw. Henry VIII decided that stronger fortifications were needed on this vulnerable island and he ordered forts to be built at Yarmouth, Freshwater, Sandown and two at Cowes. The guns at the last port were said to sound like "Cowes":-

"The two great cows, that in loud thunder roar,
This on the East, that on the West Shore".

It was not all fighting however, and the mediaeval trade of Southampton was great. It became a great export for wool, and later, cloth. It became a "staple" town. Fish from Newfoundland was brought here in the sixteenth century. All the smaller ports traded coastwise with Southampton but as ships increased in size so the number of ports decreased. In the Isle of Wight, Brading and Newport were once flourishing sea ports. Amongst other things they exported timber from the island to the naval shipyards at Portsmouth.

The Isle of Wight last enters history during the Civil War. It declared for Parliament since Col. Hammond who commanded Carisbrooke Castle favoured Cromwell. In 1647 Charles I went to Carisbrooke, he thought as a guest but actually a prisoner to be eventually handed over to Hurst Castle in November 1648 and then to the trial and execution at Whitehall. For his services Hammond got £1000 and £500p.a. from a grateful country i.e. Parliament.

CONCLUSION

Farming can only give employment to some of the islanders. Most of the permanent residents depend for part, at least, of their living upon the tourist trade. Unemployment is often great especially in winter and the recent decision (December 1957) to close the Saunders-Roe aircraft factory at Newport will only aggravate the problem. There is a continual drift of population to the mainland in search of more secure employment.

In bygone centuries, however, when villages had to be more or less self-suffient, the people producing most of their food etc., it was usual for the village parish to include land of different soils and potential land use. Even today the boundary of a parish like Shorwell encloses chalk downland, clay pastureland and arable land on the lighter more sandy soils of the river gravel terraces. A look at the boundary on the one inch O.S. map will confirm this.