

CAMBERING AROUND MAIDSTONE

Introduction

Although cambering is now known to be developed at many places in the Weald (Gallois 1965, p. 69) it is most widespread and best exposed around Maidstone. The formation primarily responsible for it is the Hythe Beds, 60 to 120 ft thick and consisting of alternate beds of hard slightly sandy limestone (ragstone) and compact calcareous sand (hassock). The underlying Atherfield Clay (20 to 60 ft thick) is also cambered, and the downward camber movement was presumably compensated for by squeezing-out and valley-bulging of the topmost 100 ft or so of the next underlying formation, the Weald Clay.

The area most affected by cambering (Fig. 1) is that in which chert layers are developed in the Hythe Beds (Worssam 1963, fig. 10, p. 36). The chert appears to have acted as a reinforcement, causing in the first place the development of a high escarpment, and under periglacial conditions resisting the carving-up of the outcrop by forces of denudation that is displayed where chert is little developed, as in the upper Len valley around Leeds, (Worssam 1963, fig. 9, p. 29), and from Little Chart eastwards to the coast (contrast 1-in Sheet 288 with sheets 289 and 305/6). The westward limit of cambering, in the area of Sheet 287, is not known.

Knowledge of the detailed succession in the Hythe Beds is essential in working out the extent of movements displayed in quarries. A group of beds near the middle of the formation, comprising the Coalman, White, Chance and Flint limestones (Fig. 2) is readily recognisable in most quarries. In Spot Lane Quarry at present (Figs. 3 and 5) the group can be identified at two places. The Coalman may have died out here.

Spot Lane and Pine Farm quarries

Spot Lane quarry is on the cambered dip-slope forming the south side of the Len valley, and shows northerly dipping dip-and-fault structure throughout. Towards the camber edge is the face exposing the synclinal structure of Fig. 4, now partly obscured. Fig. 5 shows the syncline's relation to the cambered slope, leading to its interpretation as a 'sag' (Kellaway and Taylor 1953, p. 361). Gulls (locally known as went's) in the upper part of Spot Lane quarry are lined with chert fragments probably from the Flint lane (local name for bed). In the

/intermediate

intermediate-quarry and in Pines (or Pine Farm) Quarry are east-west brickearth-filled gulls, left standing after quarrying, of the type developed strongly in the Medway valley. Gulls in Pine Farm Quarry show no relation to the clay-floored Willington valley, which like the Dean Street valley (Worssam 1963, frontispiece) seems to have been ripped out of the cambered slope at a late stage.

Age of the Cambering

Cambering is later than the 4th (or 200-ft) Terrace (?Great Interglacial age) in the Len and Medway valleys (see Fig. 5). On the other hand cambering had presumably finished by the time some 1st Terrace (Weichselian) deposits, about 30 ft O.D., were laid down in the Medway valley at Teston and Maidstone. The camber along the escarpment from Yalding to Sutton Valence, graded to relics of Head deposits at 150 and 165 ft O.D., dates possibly from the Gipping Glaciation (Worssam 1964). But along the Medway valley downstream from East Farleigh the cambered edge of Hythe Beds more or less coincides with the 50-ft contour. This low altitude and the undissected nature of the camber compared with that on the escarpment seem to suggest that movement in the valley was Weichselian. Some bones found long ago in a loam-filled fissure at Boughton Quarries, and others from Maidstone brickearth, are mostly of cold-climate species, but these and shells recorded from the brickearth give little help in dating (details in Worssam 1963, pp. 106-7).

References

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- 1964. Written contribution to the discussion of a paper previously taken as read: 6 March 1964. Proc. Geol. Ass., 75, 573-5.

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THE QUATERNARY DEPOSITS OF PEGWELL BAY

Pegwell Bay, near Ramsgate, Kent is well known as a Quaternary site from the researches of Prestwich in the last century and more recently those of Pitcher *et alia* (1954) and Kerney (1965). Further attention has been paid to the sections in the recent six-inch mapping of the Ramsgate (274) Sheet.

HEAD BRICKEARTH (as mapped by the Survey) caps the cliffs over the entire section, except where it has been quarried away. The brickearth was first shown to be a true loess or wind-blown silt by Pitcher *et alia* (1954), whose findings are confirmed by mechanical analyses carried out at the I.G.S. It also shows most of the other diagnostic characters of loess, such as vertical prismatic jointing and the related tendency to stand in vertical faces, presence of calcareous root-tubes and concretions, general buff to brown colour with darker leached upper layer, etc. A fossil soil showing a dark organic A Horizon over a pale leached B horizon is developed on the loess in places and is covered by Holocene hillwash of very similar general character to the loess. An attempt to date the soil by pollen analysis failed due to the destruction of the contained pollen by oxidation (R. G. West personal communication). Kerney (1965) has suggested a Pleniglacial Stadial B date of origin for the loess, by inference from deposits which apparently overlie it at North Cliff, Broadstairs. It is not, however, clear that the loess at North Cliff is the time equivalent of that at Pegwell, which may thus be of more recent origin.

SOLIFLUCTION DEPOSITS AND CRYOTURBATION PHENOMENA. The sections show evidence of several phases of solifluction and cryoturbation - probably corresponding to the climatic oscillations of the last Glaciation (Weichsel). The composite valley fill exposed in the cliff 100 yds west of Little Cliffsend Tunnel shows convincing evidence of such oscillations:- An early cold phase is demonstrated by the severe frost-shattering of the chalk in place (1), a milder humid period is represented by the chalky flinty 'Coombe Rock' deposit (2); (the interface between (1) and (2) is possibly an erosion surface). A further cold period is responsible for the frost-heaving affecting (2) - it may be the same as that in which the brodelboden seen at the top of the Chalk cliffs east of the Tunnel were formed. Subsequently the channel represented by the surface between (2) and (3) was eroded, cutting through the Coombe Rock to the shattered chalk beneath. A flinty gravel (3) in a ferruginous sandy matrix was soliflucted to floor the channel. Deposit (4) the main filling of the channel is a faintly banded grey-brown silty loam probably derived locally from the Thanet Beds and redeposited by solifluction or by water in a milder period. A further episode of solifluction is responsible for the chalky flinty gravel in a brown loamy matrix (5) which lies over the channel fill and beneath the loess; it is strongly cryoturbated, indicating a return to frigid conditions; its interface with the loess (6) is fairly sharp.

Various other features will be commented on during the excursion.

E. R. Shephard Thorn
March, 1967

Head Gravel of Westbere, near Sturry

Terrace-like spreads of rough, crudely bedded but largely unsorted flint-gravel, with a loamy and clayey matrix, have been worked to their base, on the London Clay at about 10 ft. Brickearth has been shown to overlie the gravel and a fine sandy variety to be interbedded with it.

The deposits are referable to a stage II as investigated in the Faversham (273) Sheet area and form part of a series of dissected fans and mantles of probably periglacial drift which can be traced over the Blean hills. They show regional and textural distinctions from the 3 terraces of River Gravels of the Stour but at this level of about 110 to 130 ft O.D. bordering the north side of the Stour Valley they show affinities with true fluvial gravels, into which they may have graded at a primitive stage of development of the Stour, which later dissected them near their southern limits.

Exposures at Westbere Ballast Pits (1962) Ltd., show ochreous gravels with large battered flints, derived tertiary materials (pebbles, etc) and smaller broken flint, without significant sorting or axial arrangement.

The former Stonerocks gravel-pit, $\frac{1}{4}$ mile to the west of the present workings, yielded Chellean types of artifacts to the indefatigable Dr. Ince of Sturry, Institute of Geological Sciences S. C. A. Holmes March, 1967.

DRIFT DEPOSITS OF THE MEDWAY VALLEY between ROCHESTER & SNODLAND

(a) From near Cuxton a view southwards indicates the general distribution of Head Deposits in the Medway Valley and its dry-valley tributary from Nashenden Bottom. Reference to the geological map will show the relationship of these drifts to River Deposits of the Medway and also their distribution as solifluxion deposits and hillwashes of essentially local materials on slopes as well as in the valley floors. River Terrace deposits, at one time assumed to be commonly present (as, mistakenly, at the 'Halling Man' site) are very restricted and largely covered by the Head.

Mapping in recent years on the six-inch scale in the areas of the Chatham (272), Faversham (273), Ramsgate (274), Maidstone (288), Canterbury (289), Dover (290) and Folkestone (305) sheets has paid special attention to drifts which up till about 1937 had not been separated in normal Geological Survey practice; it has provided a broad distribution pattern of Head which, particularly in the dry valleys, shows a certain preferential development on N.E. - and S.E. - facing slopes.

The researches led by Dr. Kerney in selected areas have demonstrated many detailed stratigraphical subdivisions of the younger head deposits, grouped by him in the Medway Valley into three stages of Late-glacial (Late Weichselian) and one of Post-glacial.

(b) Sections in the approaches to the Formby Pit of the Rugby Portland Cement Company Ltd. at Halling-on-the Medway [Lower Halling]. See Chatham Memoir pp. 115 and 127, Kerney 1963 pp. 217 and 218 (TQ 700648), Burchell 1965.

Chalky, loamy and **stony** drifts to a thickness of over 10 ft may be seen in several, now rather limited, exposures.

The Post-glacial and Late-glacial deposits were elucidated by Dr. Kerney's studies of the drifts and their molluscan faunas in exposures at Upper Halling and Holborough which formerly showed much detail. At Lower Halling the brown flinty chalk rubble at the top is Post-glacial. The Late-glacial deposits seen below rest on Full-glacial which may pass eastwards into 1st Terrace deposits of the Medway; certainly the Late-glacial drift above was formerly well seen to pass laterally into a chalky Head Brickearth which in this part of the Medway Valley, on both banks, has been shown to overlie the 1st Terrace deposits (sandy water-lain brickearth and gravels).

A borehole a little to the east of the present sections passed through 20 ft of stoneless drift [? Post- and Late-glacial], $5\frac{1}{2}$ ft of stony deposit [? Full-glacial], and $9\frac{1}{2}$ ft of "large sand and ballast" [Full-glacial; ? 1st Terrace] on the Lower Chalk.

From Mr. Burchell's detailed study of the fresh sections in the tramway cutting he was able to recognize a Middle Weichselian interstadial horizon indicated by the mollusca from a bed of 'brickearth' between two beds of 'coombe rock'.

Selected References:

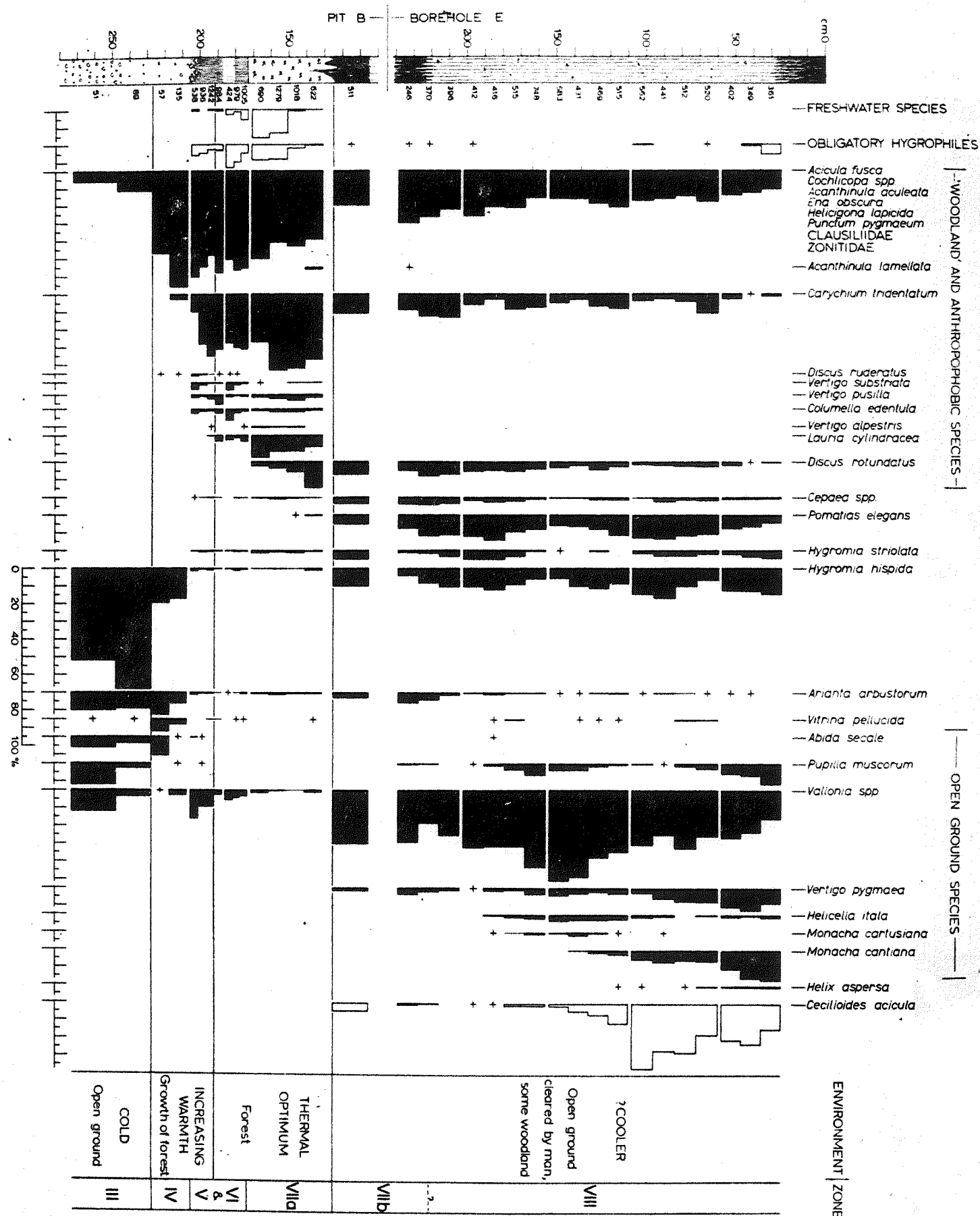
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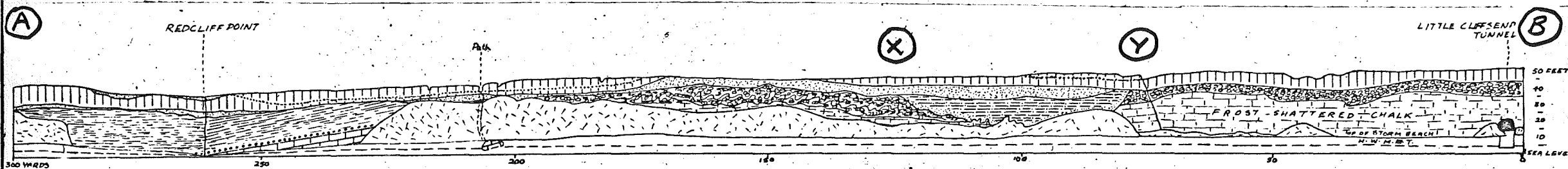
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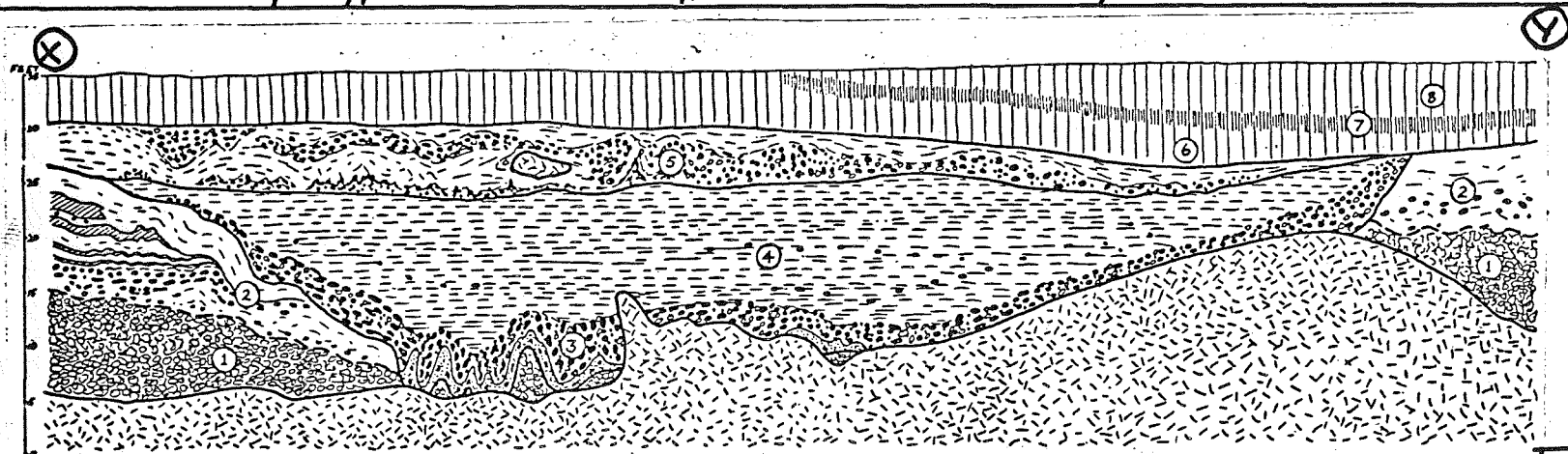


QUATERNARY OF PEGWELL BAY

Q.F.S.G. Canterbury 1967



Sketch section of Cliffs between Redcliff Point and Little Cliffsend Tunnel



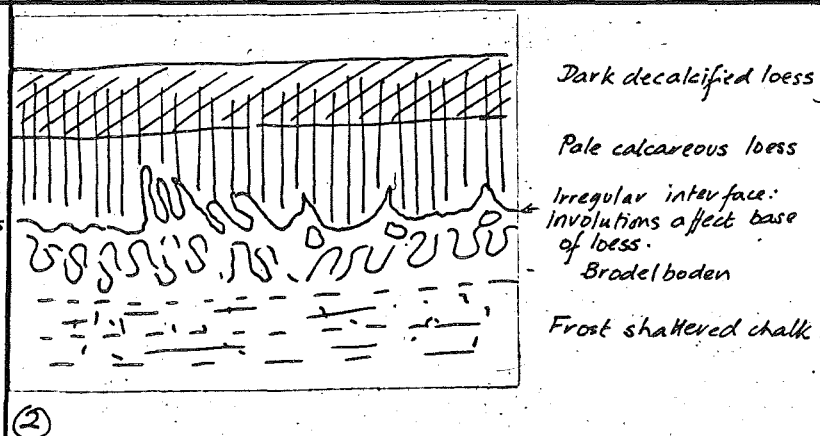
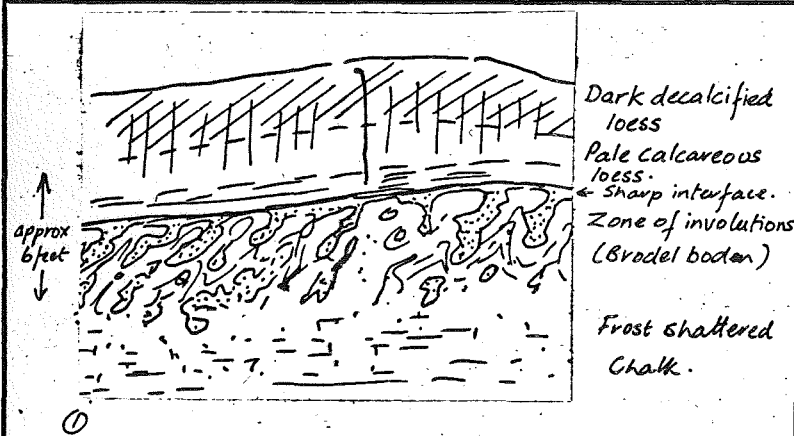
DRIFT

- Head brickearth (loess) with soil horizon
- Flinty, loamy solifluction deposits
- Loamy valley fill
- 'Coombe Rock' chalky, flinty solifluction deposits

SOLID

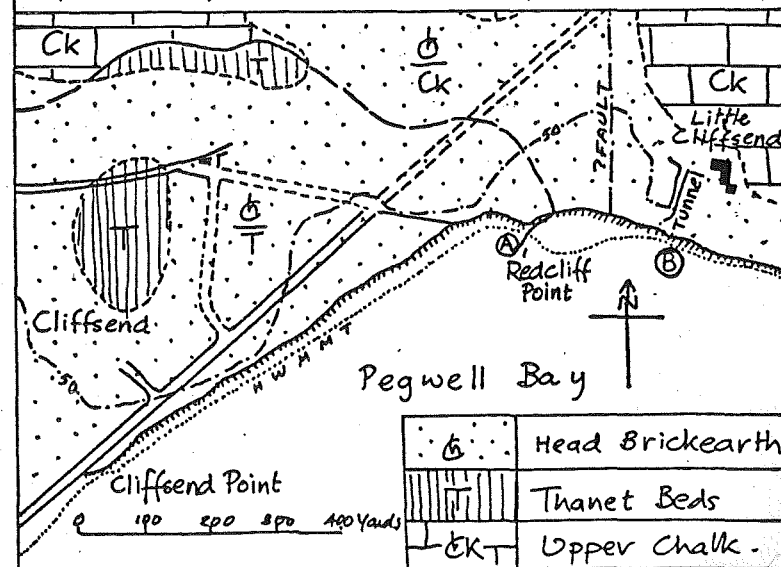
- Thanet Beds
- Upper Chalk
- Frost-shattered chalk
- Obscured

Detail of drift filled channel. Explanation on separate sheet.



Differing relations of loess to chalk in adjacent sections. (East of Little Cliffsend).

GEOLOGICAL MAP - PEGWELL BAY



The Lenham Beds.

It is felt that those members of the QFSG unfamiliar with S. E. England would wish to visit an exposure showing piping of Lenham Beds and related material into the Chalk. It is stressed that the visit is more sentimental than utilitarian and that fossiliferous material is not expected to be visible. However, the halt will allow brief discussion of the Lenham Beds and some notes are given here.

The name Lenham Beds is applied to a range of deposits that are almost certainly polygenetic. The bulk of the material is Clay-with-Flints sensu lato in the sense of Loveday (1962). Deep exposures in this are only seen in temporary excavations when there is commonly seen to be several feet of sandy clay with very large angular flints over a clayey sand with far fewer flints and sometimes hardly any at all. This sequence is not easy to account for and while it could be due to the horizontal transport of flinty material by (say) solifluction, vertical sorting by frost heave seems more probable. The very rich colours suggest a long period of subaerial weathering - reds and orange yellows predominate. A good deal of Tertiary material is probably incorporated.

Associated (the term is deliberately vague) with this material, and perhaps most commonly found in the deep solution features called pipes, are fragments of fossiliferous sandstone. While the fossils are not well preserved, a recent thorough review by Chatwin (Maidstone sheet Memoir) shows that they are generally consistent with a Diestian age (~~Lower Pliocene~~ Pliocene or perhaps Upper Miocene),. This poses the problem that the Netley Heath Beds (near Guildford) which lie on the same c. 600 foot surface as the Lenham Beds contain Red Crag (i.e. Early Pleistocene) fossils, a date which is more consistent with the morphological evidence for the age of this marine bench. Shotton (1962) has suggested that the Lenham Beds fossils might indicate an earlier submergence to c. 900 feet, but the drainage-structure relationships suggest 650 feet as the limit of marine transgression. Admittedly the problem is complicated by the fact that from the Medway eastwards the Early Pleistocene? bench extended south of the present line of the Chalk scarp so that no remnants of the Pliocene land surface are preserved on the Chalk.

Whatever the origin of the infilling material, the pipes are clearly solution features: the convergent movement of percolating water has concentrated solution, opening up the preferred route which has thus led to further convergence of water. The pipes can be of large dimensions, but the most common ones are only a few feet across although commonly tens of feet deep. The material within them is completely disturbed, and this can sometimes be seen in the bedding. The margins are the Clay-with-Flints sensu stricto of Loveday, generally stained black - by manganese?

In conclusion it must be stressed that while much attention has naturally been paid to the fossils and also some attention to the heavy minerals, the stratification and weathering profile of the Lenham Beds remains little known and deserves attention.

K. M. C.

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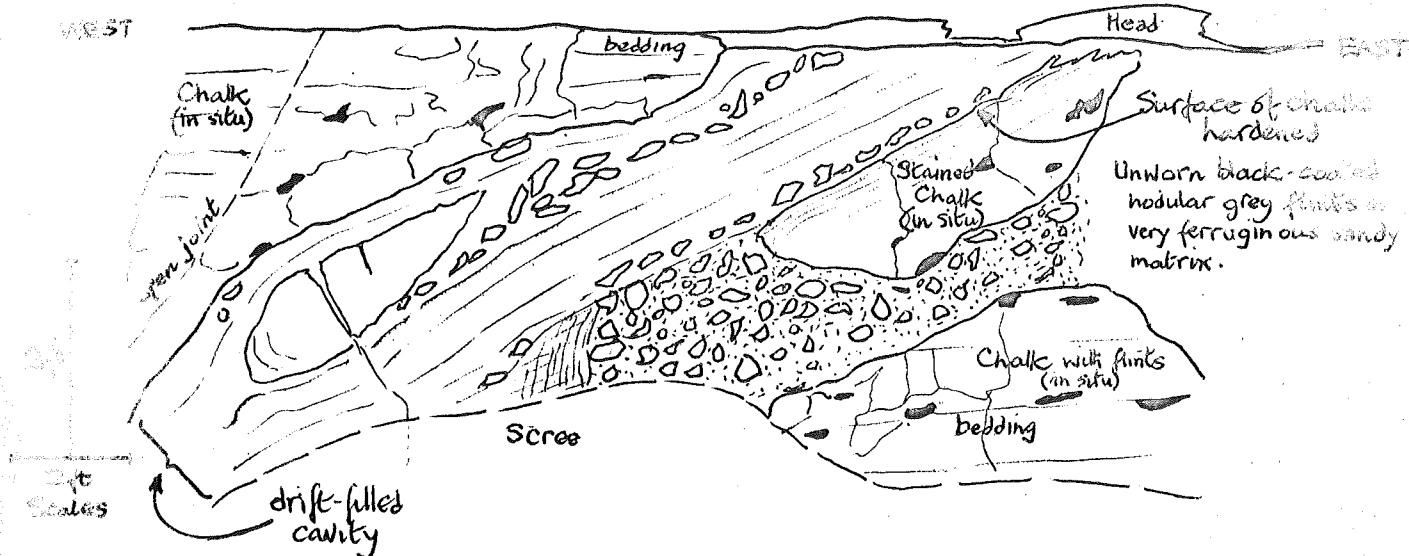
The section A-B was constructed with information from a series of boreholes on the line of the cut-off trench. The geological Map (2) shows the regional setting of the bulge. High dips in the Wadthurst Clay shales exposed in the bed of the Gtottenham Stream show that bulging is also present there. The structures shown are typical of this phenomenon.

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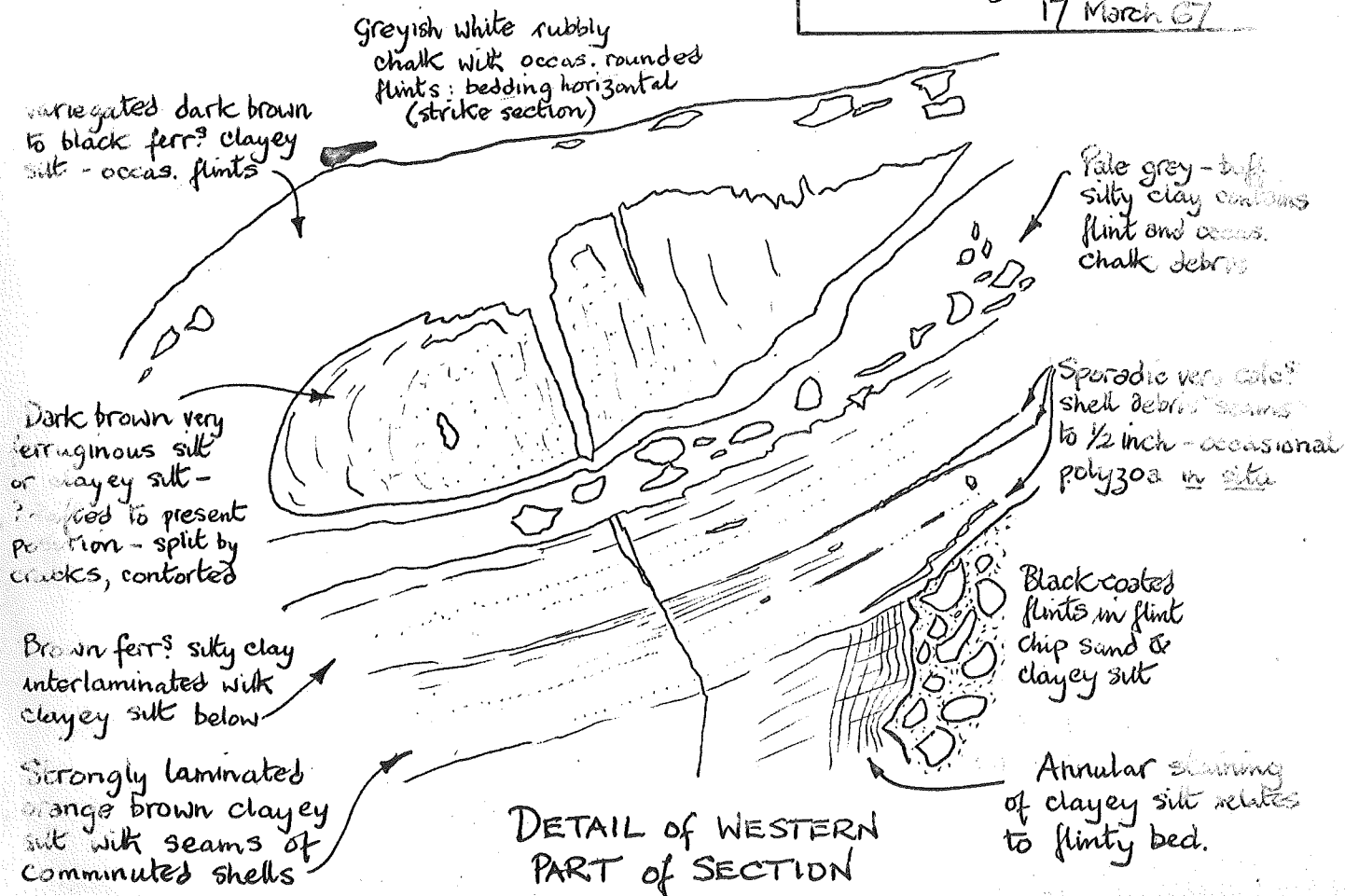
QUATERNARY FIELD STUDIES GROUP : 1967

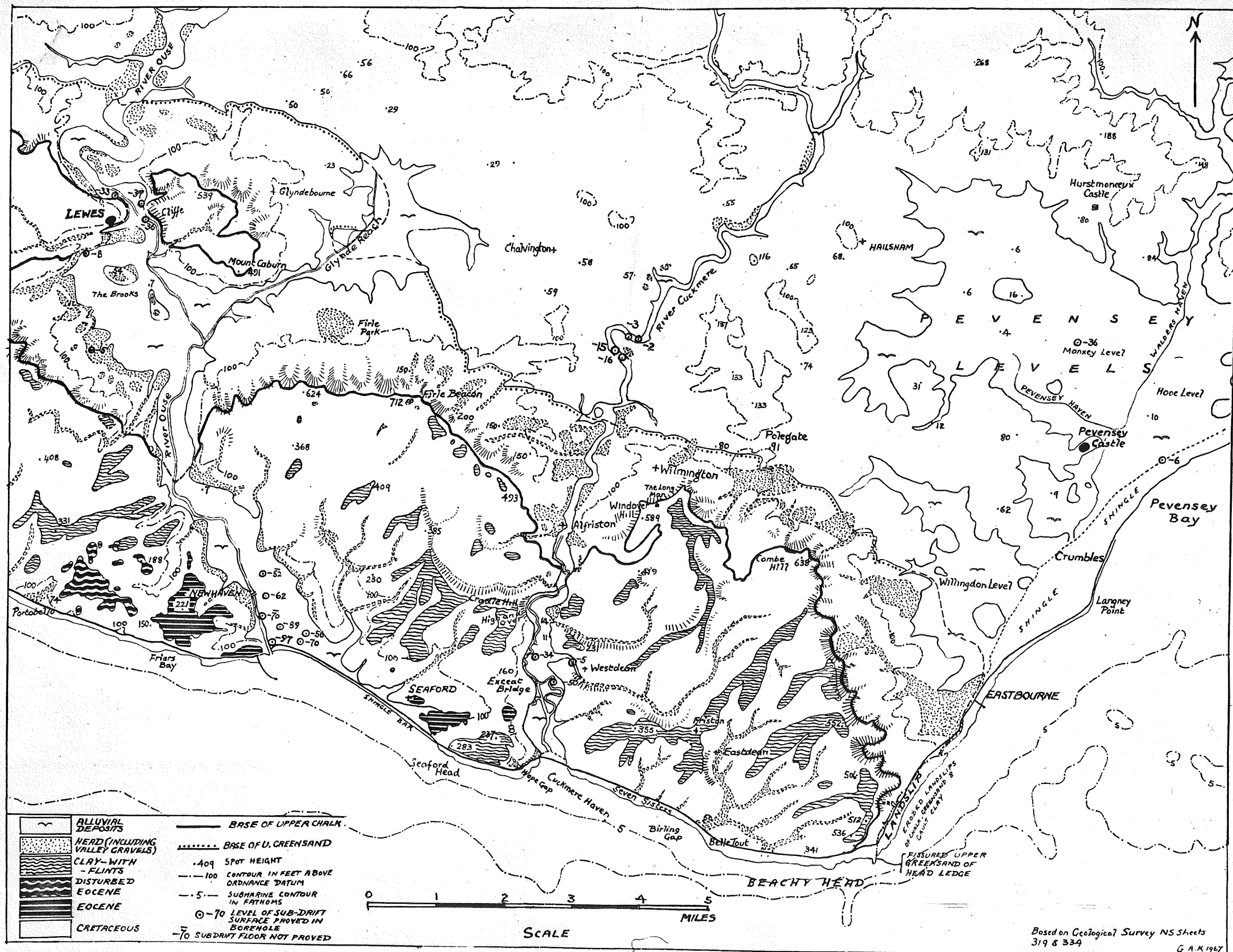
TEMPORARY SECTION - UPPER BEEDING



A Drift-filled crevice in bedded Upper Chalk at approx. 50 ft A.O.D.
[Grid ref. TQ 1995 0840, in cutting 200 yd south of cement works]

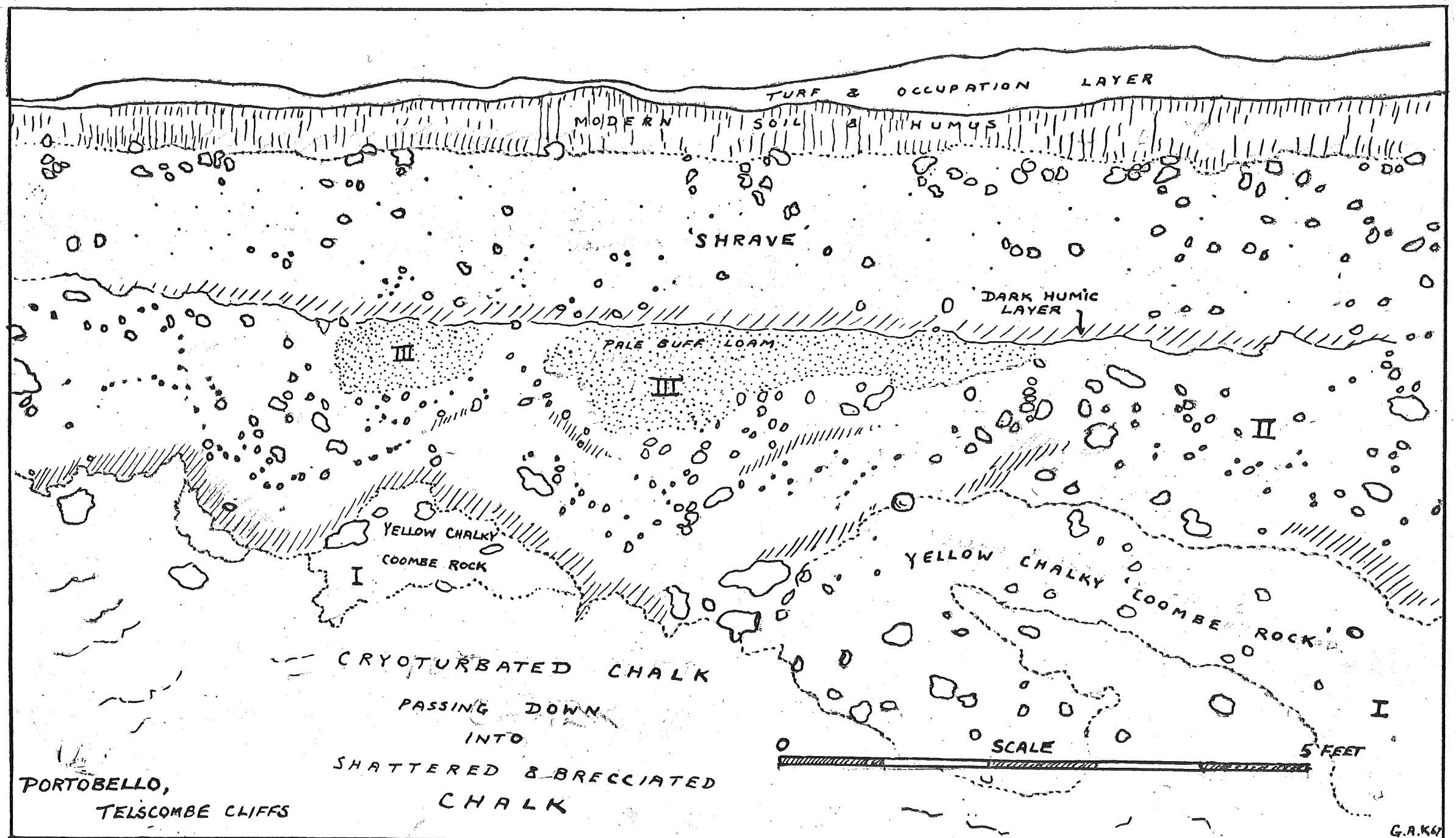
Sketches by R.G. THURRELL
17 March 67

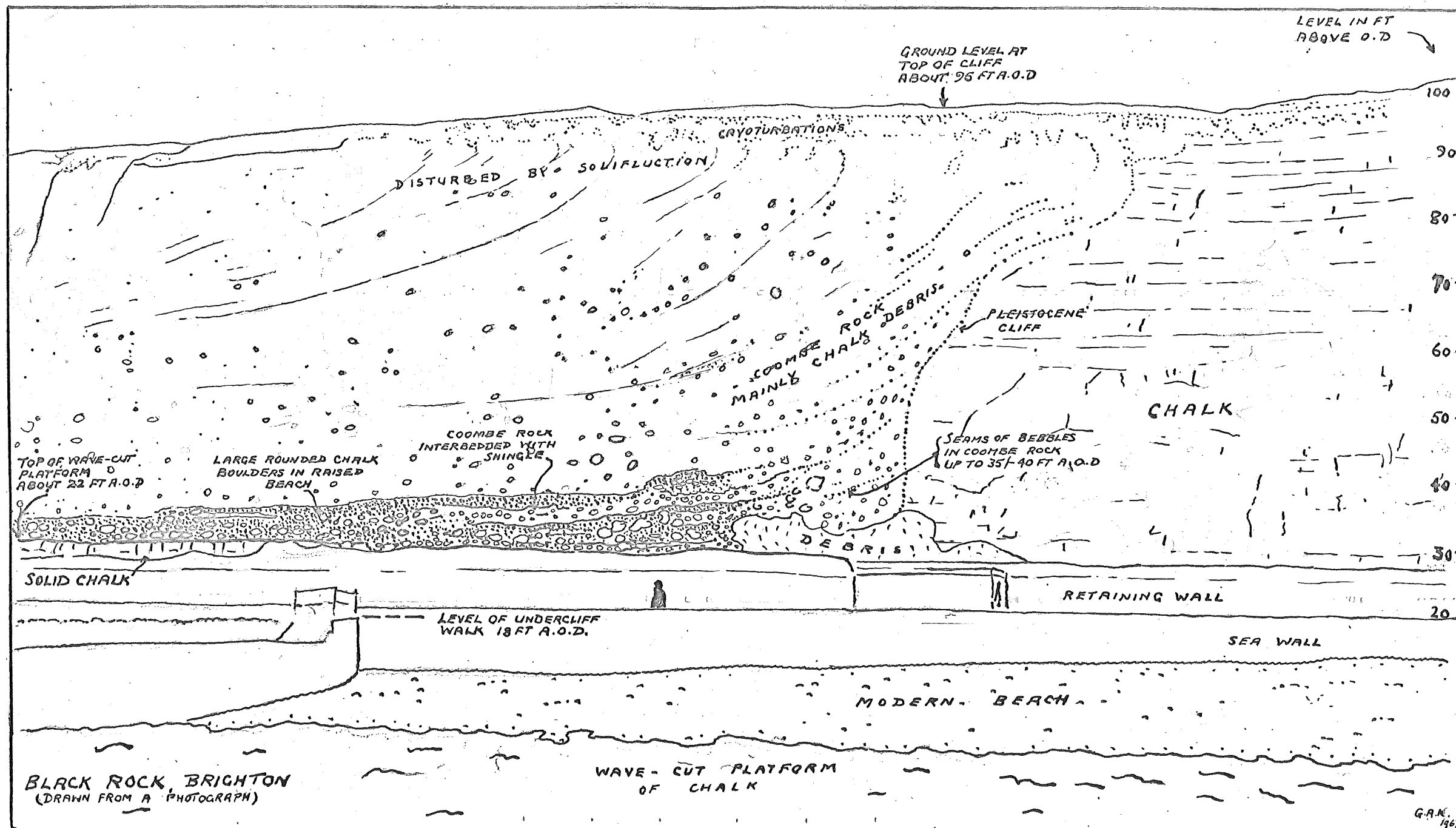


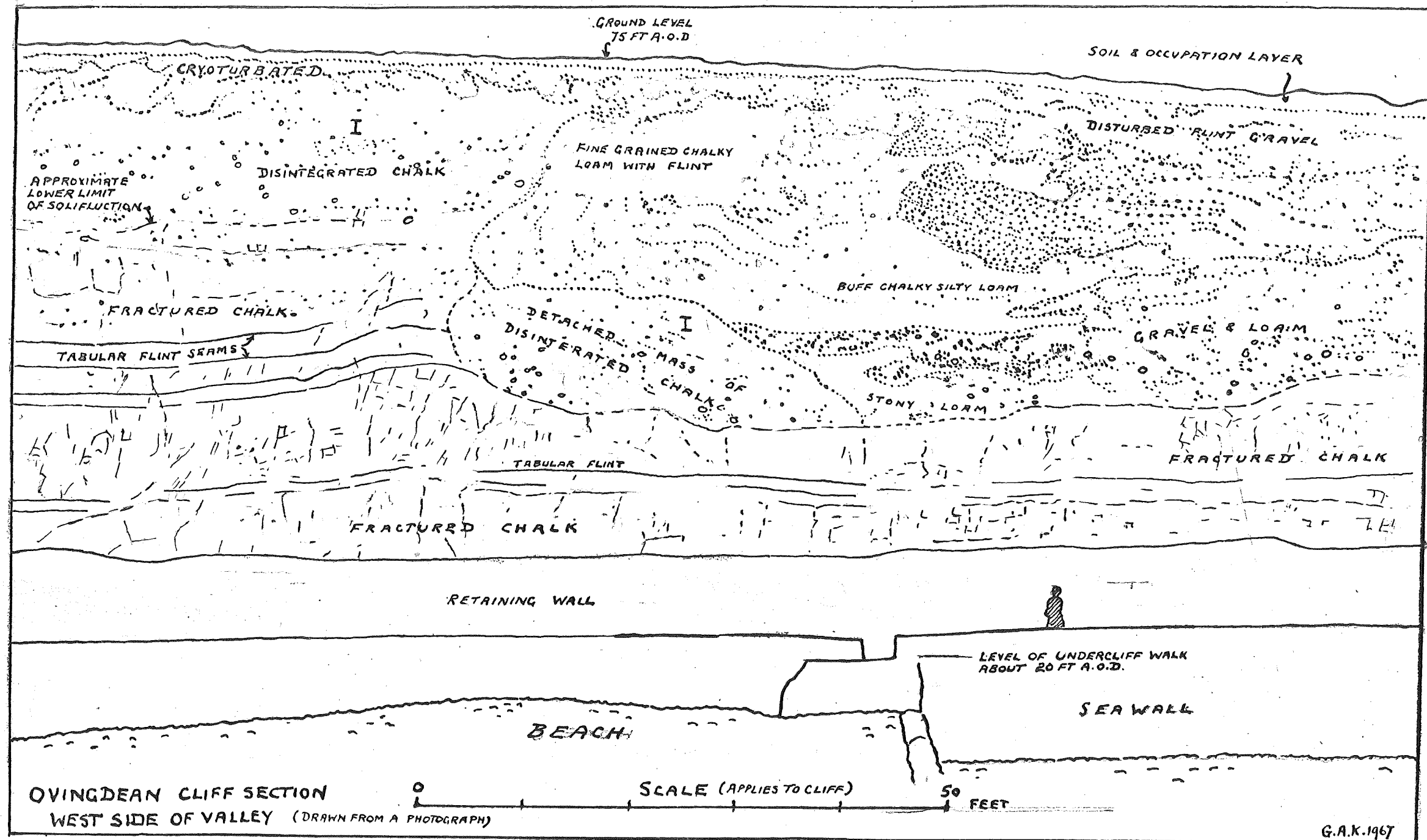


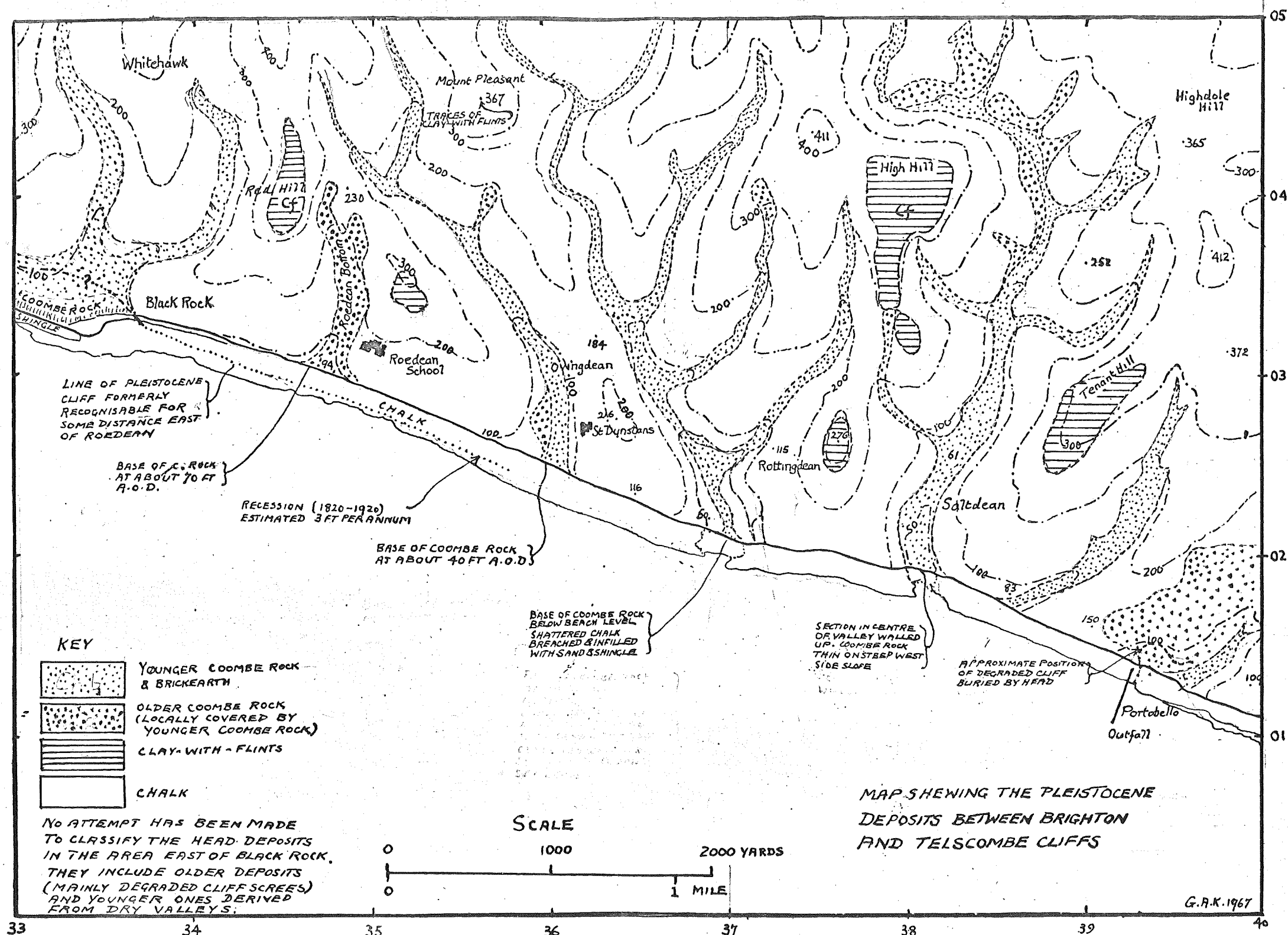
Based on Geological Survey NS Sheets
319 & 334

G.A.K 196









CAMBERING AROUND MAIDSTONE

Q.F.S.G. Canterbury 1967

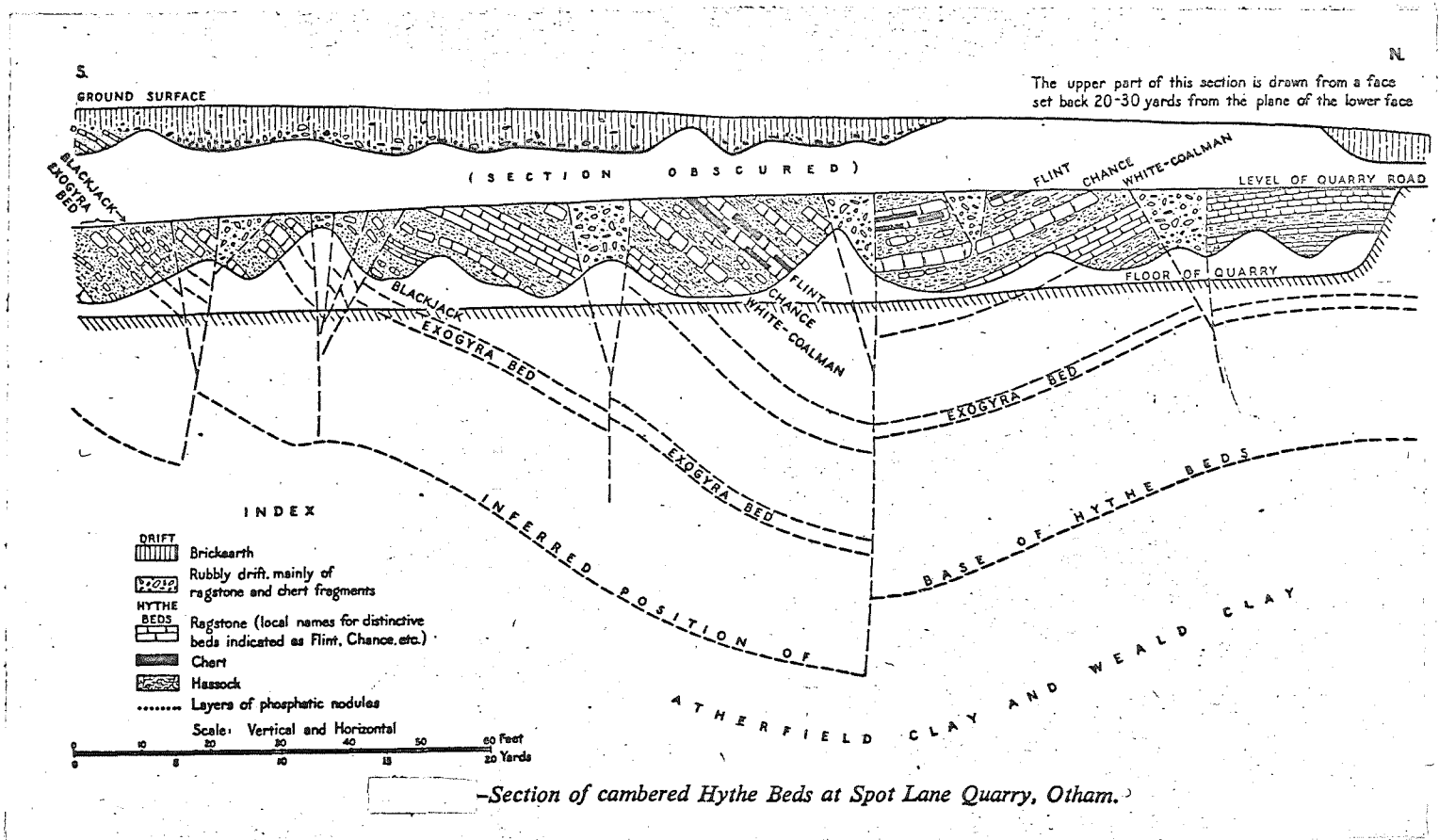
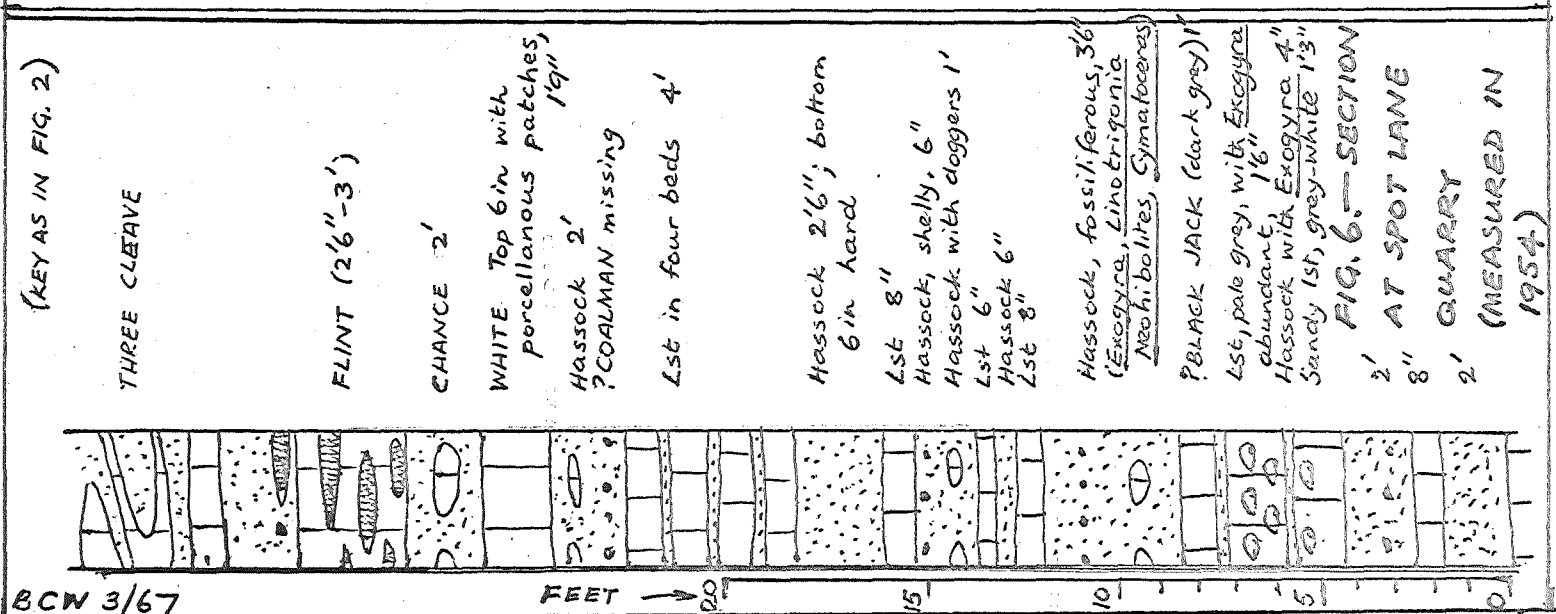
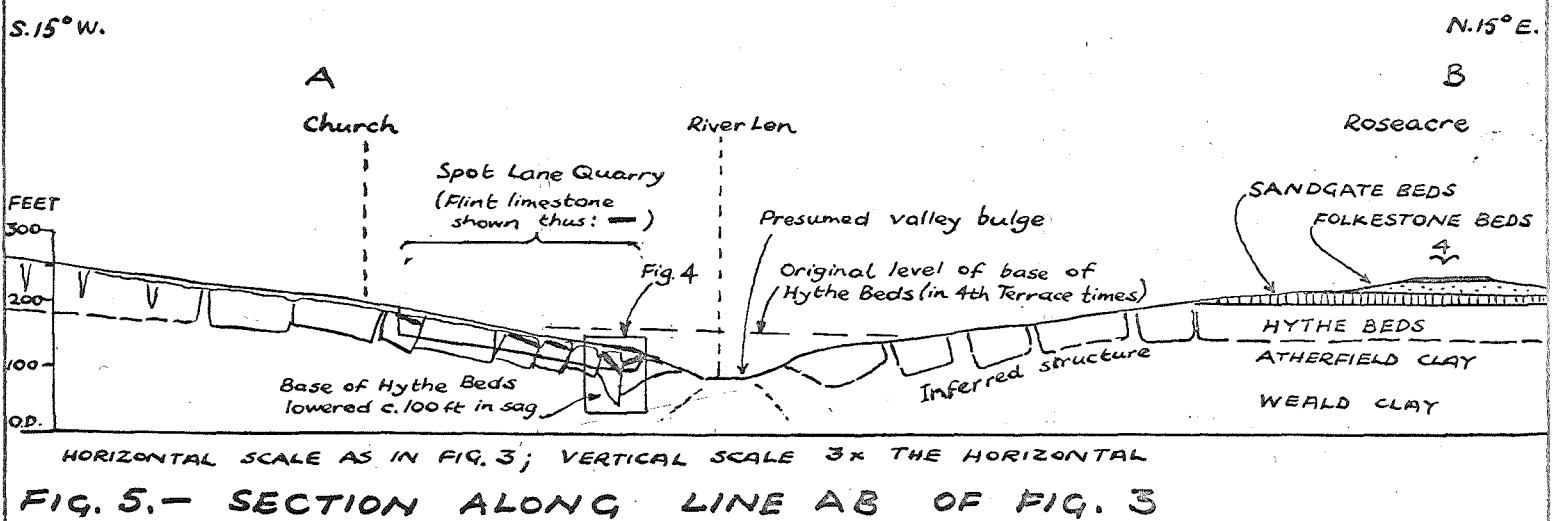


FIG. 4.—FACE NEAR CRUSHING PLANT, SPOT LANE QUARRY (FIG. 16 OF MAIDSTONE MEMOIR)



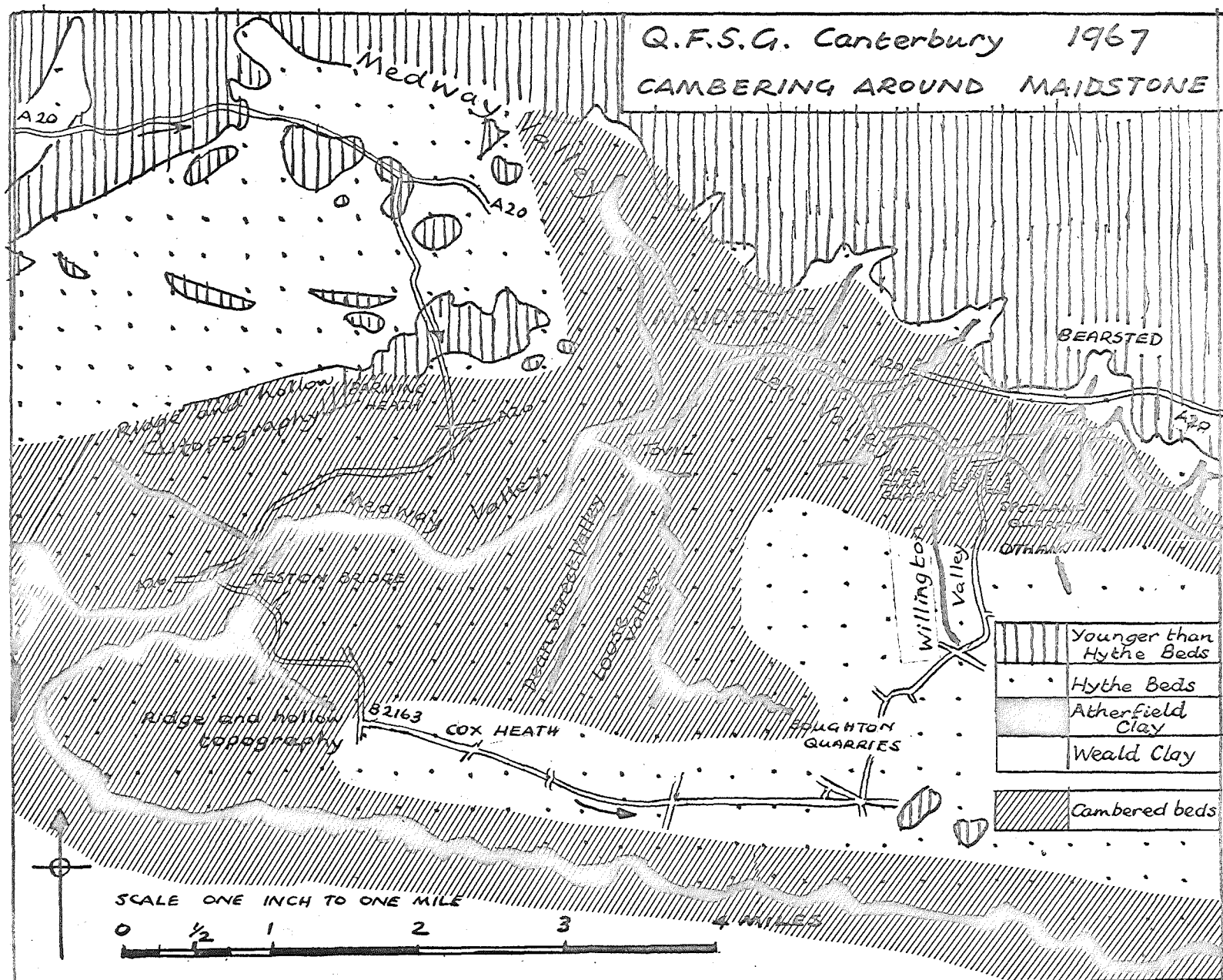
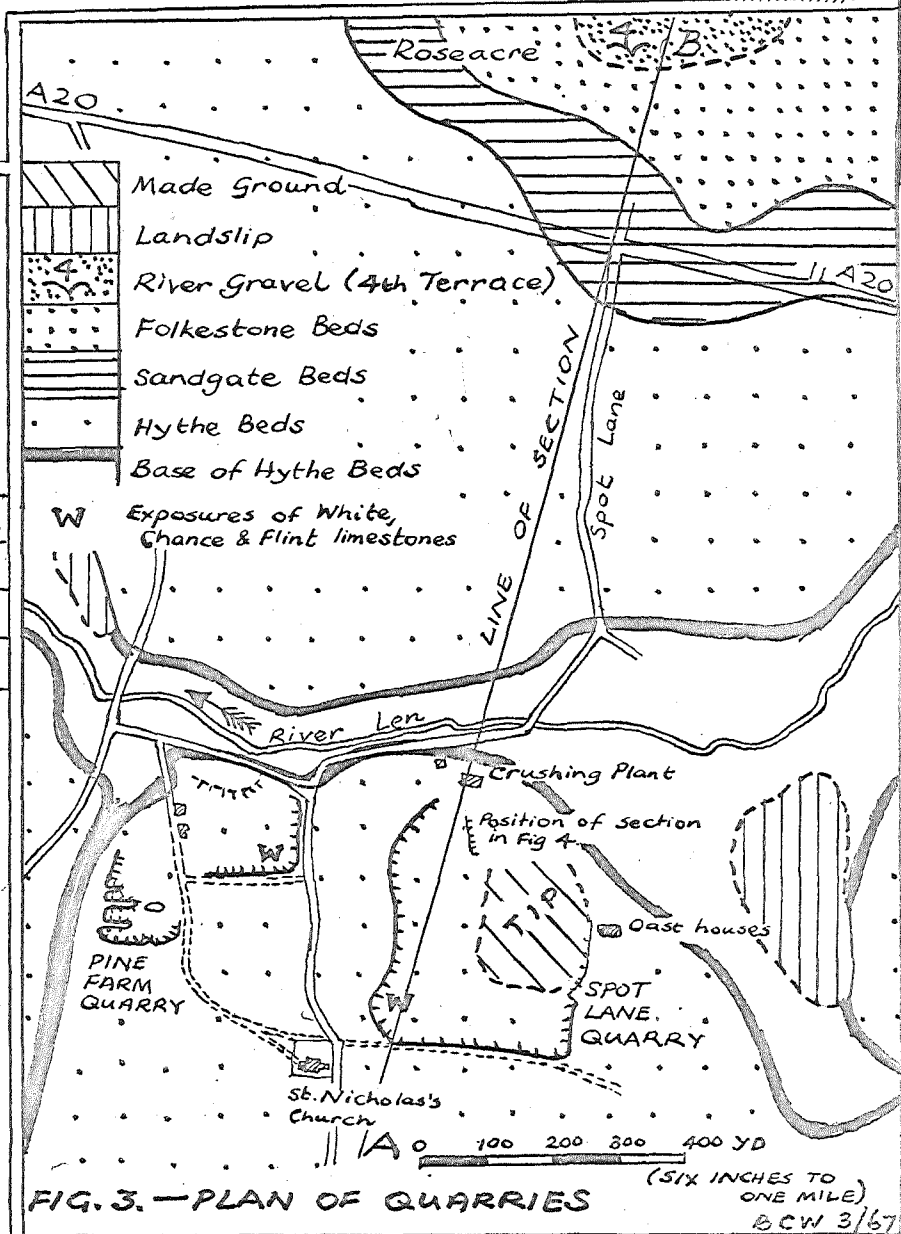
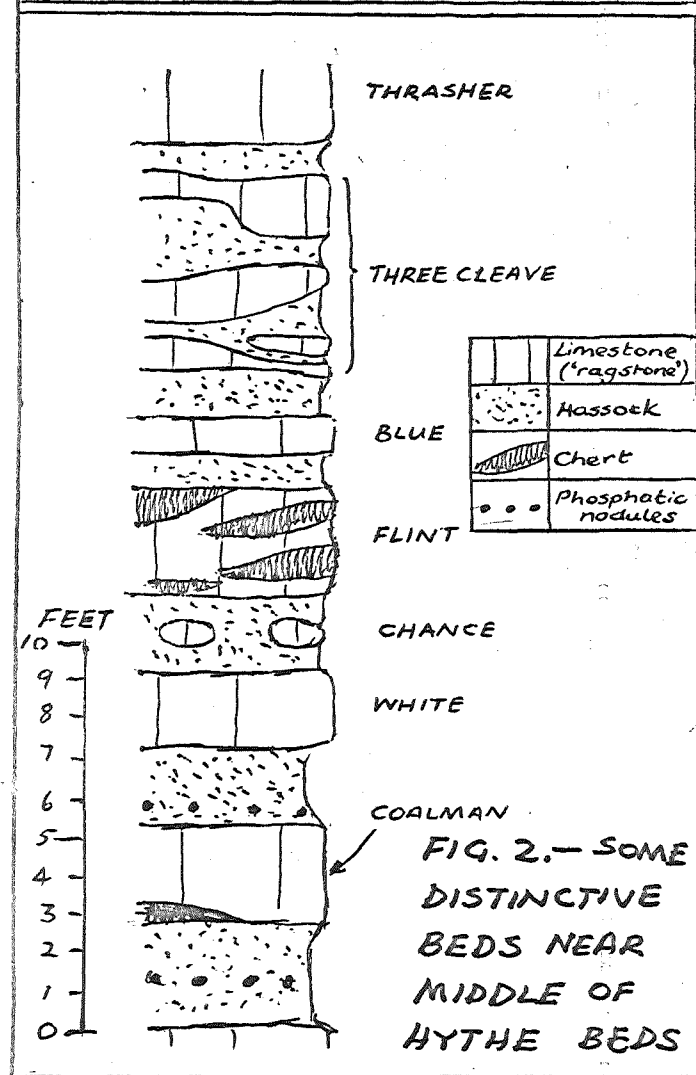
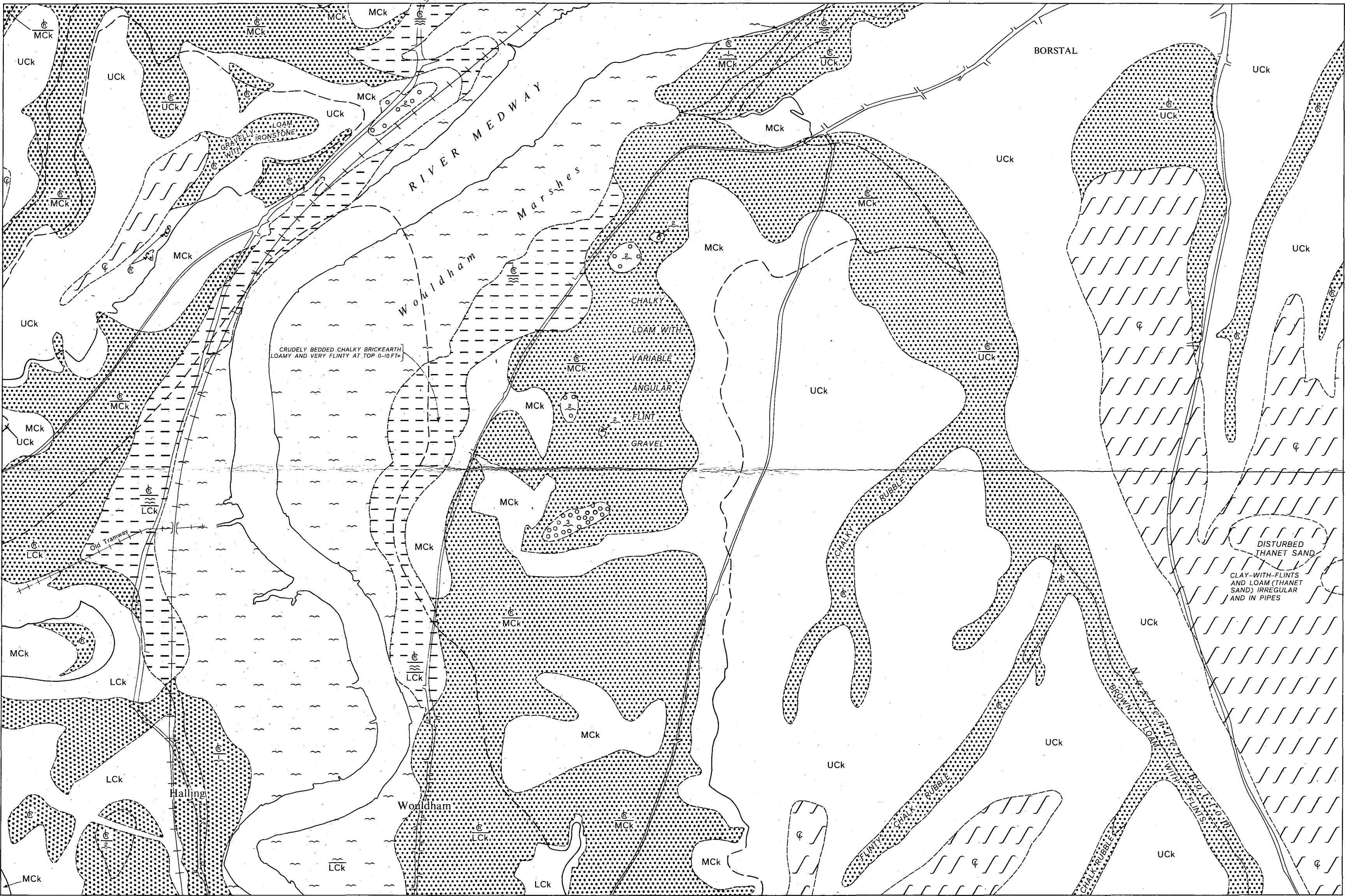


FIG. 1.—LOCALITY AND ROUTE MAP



DRIFT DEPOSITS OF THE LOWER MEDWAY VALLEY

BASED ON KENT SHEET 19 SW



EXPLANATION
of
Geological Signs

DRIFT

	Alluvium
	Head
	Head Brickearth
	River Brickearth
	1st Terrace
	2nd Terrace
	3rd Terrace
	Clay-with-flints

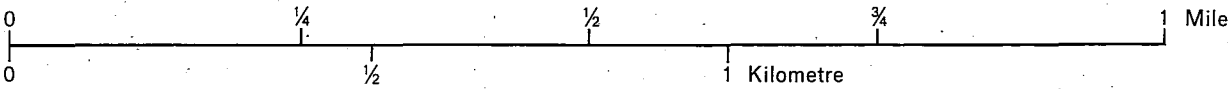
Geological boundary, Drift
Geological boundary, Solid
Broken lines denote uncertainty

SOLID

Uck	Upper Chalk
Mck	Middle Chalk
Lck	Lower Chalk

Geological survey by S. C. A. Holmes in 1938.
C. N. Bromhead, District Geologist.
E. B. Bailey, Director.

Scale—Six Inches to One Mile



Reproduced by the Dyeline process at the Institute of Geological Sciences, London, March, 1967.

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