

A stratigraphical framework for the Lower Cretaceous of England

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5.2 DERSINGHAM FORMATION

Name

The Dersingham Beds of Casey and Gallois (1973) and Gallois (1984, 1994) and given member status in Rawson (1992).

Type section

Dersingham Common [TF 6853 2953 to 6872 2926]

Primary reference sections

Dersingham Sand Pit [TF 6814 2937]

South-western end of Roydon Common [TF 6796 2223 to 6876 2192]

Warren Farm Stone Pit [TF 6737 2215] = Blakeley Pit.

Formal subdivisions

Includes the Snettisham Clay Member

Lithology

The formation comprises a rhythmic succession of thinly interbedded, fine-grained sands, ferruginous sandstones, silts and clays. The formation varies laterally from ferruginous fine-grained sands and sandstones around Dersingham and Roydon Common, to silts in the Hunstanton Borehole TF64SE11 [6587 4078]. Clay (Snettisham Clay Member) is present at the top of the formation, such as in the Hunstanton Borehole, at Dersingham and at Snettisham. It passes laterally into the Tealby Formation below The Wash.

Definition of upper boundary

Ferruginous, medium-grained, generally and pebbly sand, locally clayey at the base of the Carstone Formation, overlies mudstone of the Snettisham Clay Member around Dersingham and Snettisham. At Hunstanton, silty, pebbly clays at the base of the Roach Formation overlies a rhythmic succession of brown and red clay and clayey silt, in part, and separated by an interburrowed erosion surface.

Definition of lower boundary

A downward change from ferruginous, fine-grained sandstone to unconsolidated, fine- to medium-grained, cross-bedded, generally clean, pale quartz sands of the Leziat Member of the Sandringham Sands Formation.

Thickness

Up to about 16 m

Distribution

Crops out at Heacham to Babingley River and Roydon to Ashwicken, and outliers occur at Rising Lodge, and East Winch. It is cut out by the overstepping Carstone in the vicinity of East Winch. Boreholes at Gayton and Hunstanton penetrated the formation.

Previous names

Dersingham Beds

Sandringham Sands (parts)

Parent

None

Age

Hauterivian to Barremian

“This is above the Sandringham Sands formation.

The Carrstone of our village should be referred to as Sandstones from the Dersingham Formation or Dersingham Sandstones” FC.