

## STRATIGRAPHY OF THE PALEOCENE-EOCENE DEPOSITS OF THE NW PARIS BASIN AND NEIGHBOURING AREAS (EAST-SUSSEX, NORTHERN FRANCE, MONS BASIN ...)

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Detailed stratigraphic, sedimentologic and biostratigraphic studies allow to propose a synthetic overview of this key region.

Three main sets of sedimentary units can be distinguished.

On the Chalks, if we except the Dano-Montian which will be considered elsewhere, the first set comprises the so-called Thanetian (glauconitic) sands divided in two cycles (transgression-regression) and attributed to the zones NP8 (i.e. Sables de Dieppe) and NP9 (i.e. Sables de Criel). Northwards, the upper sandy unit is a well expressed regressive sequence with a lower silty-clayey layer often present on the transgressive surface (Argile de Saint-Josse, Argile de Louvil-Tuffeau de Saint-Omer, Tuffeau d'Angre, de Lincent, ...).

The second set is formed by the dominantly clayey, continental, brackisch, tidal and then marine beds named Fausses Glaises, Sables et Argiles à Ostracodes et Mollusques, "Sparnacien", Argile de Saint-Aubin, Woolwich Beds, "Landénien sup.", ...

The third is a widespread unit of marine glauconitic sands which often contains small black flint pebbles (Sables de Saint-Saëns, Sables fauves, S. à galets du Mont-Hulin, Galets de Picardie, "galets avellanaires"). After BRIQUET, LERICHE and STAMP, these sands are correlated with the Oldhaven Beds.

Above lies the Ypresian or one of the equivalent formations: Formation de Varengeville, Argile du Château de la Bruyère, London Clay, Argile de Wardrecques, ...

Three major discontinuities separate these sets of deposits.

The first, below the Thanetian sands, is correlated with the regression of the "Montien continental".

The second, above the same sands, is well recorded by erosion levels and paleosols concealed between the Thanetian sands and the Sparnacian (Landenian) facies. It corresponds with an important fall of the sea level and is followed by a slow transgression in which, at least, four oscillations, maybe parasequences, are identified within the Manche outcrops.

The third is the erosional surface lying below the Oldhaven Beds equivalents. It seems of lesser importance.

Paleobiologic events are situated in this detailed framework; the *Cyrena cordata-forbesi-cuneiformis* evolution, the limit of the *Peckichara disermas-P. piveteaui* charozone, the first *Wetziella astra* appearance, the diatoms occurrence. Tentative eustatic interpretation is proposed.

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