

GLOSSARY

OF GEOLOGICAL AND OTHER SCIENTIFIC TERMS USED IN THIS REPORT.

(FROM LYELL'S PRINCIPLES OF GEOLOGY.)

- ALGÆ.** An order or division of the cryptogamic class of plants. The whole of the sea-weeds are comprehended under this division, and the application of the term in this work is to marine plants. *Etym.*, *alga*, sea-weed.
- ALLUVIAL.** The adjective of alluvium, which see.
- ALLUVIUM.** Earth, sand, gravel, stones, and other transported matter, which has been washed away and thrown down by rivers, floods or other causes, upon land not *permanently* submerged beneath the waters of lakes or seas. *Etym.*, *alluo*, to wash upon.
- AMMONITE.** An extinct and very numerous genus of the order of mollusca animals called Cephalopoda, allied to the modern genus Nautilus, which inhabited a chambered shell, curved like a coiled snake. Species of it are found in all geological periods of the secondary strata; but they have not been seen in the tertiary beds. They are named from their resemblance to the horns on the statues of Jupiter Ammon.
- AMORPHOUS.** Bodies devoid of regular form.
- AMYGDALOID.** One of the forms of the Trap rocks, in which agates and simple minerals appear to be scattered like almonds in a cake.
- ANTHRACITE.** A shining substance, like black lead; a species of mineral charcoal.
- ANTICLINAL AXIS.** If a range of hills, or a valley, be composed of strata, which on the two sides dip in opposite directions, the imaginary line that lies between them, towards which the strata on each side rise, is called the anti-clinal axis. In a row of houses, with steep roofs, facing the south, the slates represent inclined strata, dipping north and south, and the ridge is an east and west anticlinal axis.
- ARENACEOUS.** Sandy. *Etym.*, *arena*, sand.
- ARGILLACEOUS.** Clayey, composed of clay. *Etym.*, *argilla*, clay.
- AUGITE.** A simple mineral, of a dark green, or black colour, which forms a constituent part of many varieties of volcanic rocks.
- BASALT.** One of the most common varieties of the Trap rocks. It is a dark green or black stone, composed of augite and felspar, very compact in texture, and of considerable hardness, often found in regular pillars of three or more sides, called basaltic columns. Remarkable examples of this kind are seen at the Giant's Causeway, in Ireland, and at Fingal's Cave, in Staffa, one of the Hebrides. The term is used by Pliny, and is said to come from *basal*, an Ethiopian word signifying iron. The rock often contains much iron.
- BITUMEN.** Mineral pitch, of which the tar-like substance which is often seen to ooze out of the Newcastle coal when on the fire, and which makes it cake, is a good example. *Etym.*, *bitumen*, pitch.
- BITUMINOUS SHALE.** An argillaceous shale, much impregnated with bitumen, which is very common in the coal measures.
- BOULDERS.** A provincial term for large rounded blocks of stone lying on the surface of the ground, or sometimes imbedded in loose soil, different in composition from the rocks in their vicinity, and which have, therefore, been transported from a distance.
- BRECCIA.** A rock composed of angular fragments, connected together by lime or other mineral substance. An Italian term.
- CALCARNEOUS ROCK.** Limestone. *Etym.*, *calx*, lime.
- CALCARNEOUS SPAR.** Crystallized carbonate of lime.