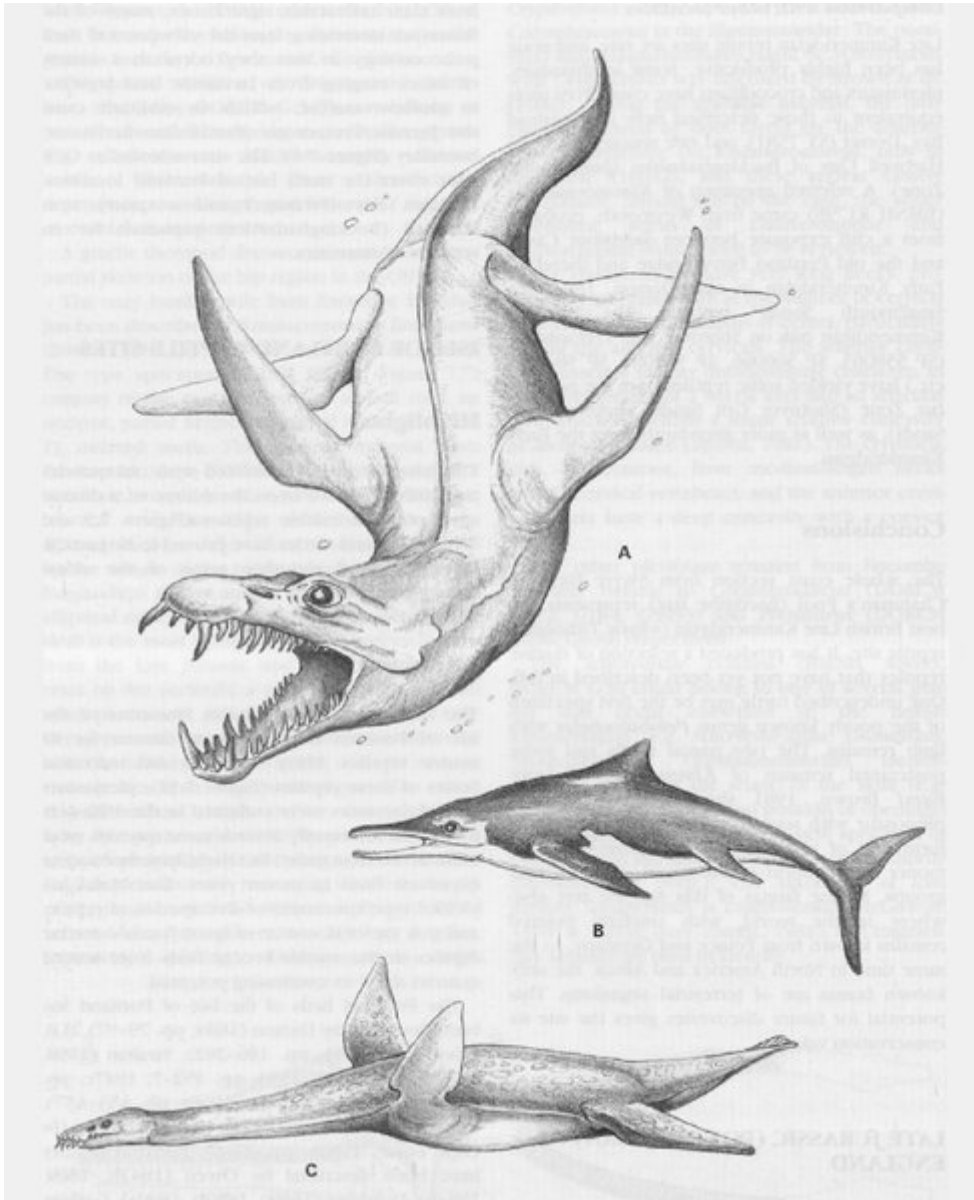


Late Jurassic (Portiandian) of England

Portlandian (=Upper Tithonian) reptile sites are generally rare in Britain, the only productive ones being on the Isle of Portland and near Swanage, both in Dorset, and in Buckinghamshire. Apart from their taxonomic significance, many of the faunas are interesting from the viewpoint of their palaeoecology in that they occur in a variety of facies ranging from lacustrine and lagoonal to shallow marine, which in addition cross the Jurassic/Cretaceous (Portlandian–Berriasian) boundary (Figure 7.8). The sites selected as GCR sites cover the main Isle of Portland localities, Durlston Bay (Swanage) and a quarry near Hartwell (Buckinghamshire) important for its remains of dinosaurs.

References



(Figure 7.8) Some typical marine reptiles of Late Jurassic times in southern England. (A) The pliosaur *Liopleurodon*, one of the largest marine predators of all time at 12 m long. (B) The ichthyosaur *Ophthalmosaurus*, which was 2–4 m long. (C) The plesiosauroid *Ctyptoclidus*, which was 4 m long. These animals occur typically in the Oxford Clay and Kimmeridge Clay faunas. Drawn by John G. Martin, copyright City of Bristol Museums and Art Gallery.