

GLA 38: Chalky Dell, Potential RIGS

London Borough of Bexley, TQ 4814 7846

Ownership: Local Authority. Access is possible to quarry floor (see below).

The dell consists of a tongue-shaped hollow with a path, probably used as road when the chalk was quarried here. On entering the dell, to the right is a lower part of the quarry about 30m long by 5m below the path. The area is now overgrown. A considerable amount of the chalk was used for constructing New Road in 1851

The small, partially-overgrown Chalk pit exposes the junction with the Thanet Sand Formation above including the unweathered [glauconite](#)-covered flints of the Bullhead Beds at the base¹. The quarry is included as Stop 10 on the Green Chain Walk Geotrail and recent conservation work has exposed the main face showing the Bullhead Bed at the top of the Chalk. The top of the Chalk here is considered to be within the Seaford Chalk Formation, the norm for the London region, but no detailed analysis has been undertaken.

There are also small exposures of Chalk visible close to path from the gate.

Access

The old quarry lies within fenced off area of Lesnes Abbey Woods. Currently, there is a vehicle gate across the entrance, which has to be climbed. It is hoped that a small gap/gate for people can be provided to allow easier access down slope to the quarry floor. The site is 150 m south of the Green Chain Walk (Section 2) and is featured on the Geotrail (see www.greenchain.com/downloads/file/1/green_chain_geo_trail_guide).

¹ Marriott, St. J. 1925. *British Woodlands as illustrated by Lessness Abbey Woods*. George Routledge & Sons Ltd, London.

Exposure visible at Chalky Dell after conservation in April 2014. The two arrows show the top and base of the Thanet Sand; greeny/black flint clasts of the Bullhead Bed can be seen just above the Chalk. Photo: Steve Tracey



Site Map

Source: London's foundations, page 183

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