

GLA 77 Park Hill Chalk Pit, Carshalton, Candidate LIGS

London Borough of Sutton, TQ 274 639

Ownership: Bankside Close Freehold Company (BCFC), managed by HML Management of Croydon (HMLM)

The south side of Carshalton is bounded by the chalk escarpment of the North Downs. The old Park Hill Chalk Pit has been chosen to represent the chalk in the area as the chalk face on the north side of the old quarry can still be seen at the back of the housing estate within Bankside Close. There were formally many chalk pits in the area working the chalk for lime to lay on the London Clay fields just to the north but most are filled in or completely over-grown.

The chalk in this area is mapped on the London South map (1998) as 'Upper Chalk' and in more recent editions as 'Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation, Seaford Chalk Formation and Newhaven Chalk Formation Undifferentiated, Chalk Group'. G.W Young 1905 in describing this pit states 'massive, well bedded chalk with many layers of nodular flints in regular courses, and one well marked tabular flint. Chalk well weathered but fossils scarce, Zone of *Micraster coranguinum*'. This places it in the Seaford Chalk Formation as are most of the chalk exposures within Greater London. The prominent flint layers within the 22m cliff face are very apparent.

Pit Cottage at the top and Pit House at the back are still standing – the house is constructed of knapped flint, presumably from the former pit.

Access

Public parking on the road called Bankside Close (the same name as the estate) but not in the residents' parking areas; it leads down into the former pit from the B278, Parkhill Road. It is a Public Highway only as far as the turnaround. The chalk cliff face is best exposed on the north side of the old pit with access to the northern portion through the car park. The southern involves going through the private open space between the two rows of housing. . There is a sign saying 'Cliff face keep away'.



February 2018



February 2018



December 2018



Photos: Geoff West

Site Map

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