

Geoconservation at Harefield Great Pit Friday 21 March 2025



The London Geodiversity Partnership obtained permission from Natural England to conserve the access to the face at Harefield in March 2024. The permission continues to 2028. We came back last summer to find the access from the footpath across the fields, normally worn by dog walkers, was totally overgrown. In March we wrote again to Natural England and received permission to conserve the two faces of interest, provided there was no recent evidence of badger activity. We spent the beginning examining the faces and discussing the geology. We were convinced that there was no evidence of badgers at Sites 1 and 2, although they were still active at Site 3 (not conserved). Many thanks to our band of 11 members of LGP and Harrow and Hillingdon Geological Society for the hard work.

	Before	After
Track to face	 Shoulder-high thisles and nettles in the field remain a problem and we had difficulty locating the track	 A rake cleared the path much more rapidly and access lined with branches. Brambles near the faces had not come back
Section 1	 Chalk/Upnor contact obscured	 Face cleaned and flints made more visible
Section 2	 Upnor and Reading Beds; hole totally obscured by scree	 Scree cleared from half the section revealing badger hole

Photographs by John Gill