

Geoconservation Day at Riddlesdown Chalk Pit, Saturday 11 October 2025

The London Geodiversity Partnership and the London Branch of the Open University Geological Society were joined by members of the Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society for our Geoconservation Day at the large Chalk quarry at Riddlesdown. The quarry is owned and managed by the City of London Corporation and, as usual, Matt Johnson prepared the base for a bonfire for the face we were to clear. He also kindly provided tea and coffee. Eighteen of us reported for duty which was a larger group than usual and in no time we had cleared the face where water seeping from the spoil mound has created a coating of tufa. We last cleared this area in 2017. This year, we not only revealed the tufa 'wall' but also a row of stalactites that we had not seen on our earlier visits. After our tea break, Liam Gallagher, a chalk expert and current GA President, took a group of geoconservers for a tour of the pit, explaining about the chalk in general, and putting the importance of the pit into context. This year the tour was also joined by members of the Amateur Geological Society who had come specifically to see the pit. Several stayed after, looking successfully for fossils. Very many thanks to all our volunteers – it is always rewarding to uncover something new!

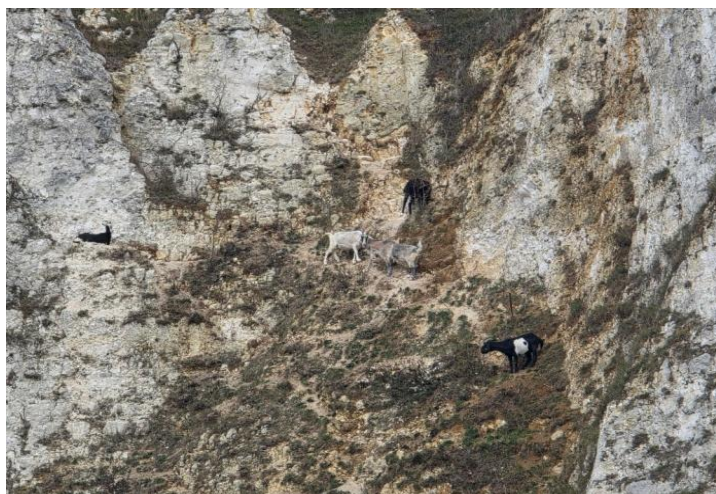
Photographs by Heidi Tindall, Gail Dickerson and Diana Clements



Straight down to work on the tufa wall



The tufa wall re-exposed



Five goats are employed to keep down the vegetation



The goats get friendly with Gail



Liam pointing to the stalactites



Geoconservers in front of the revealed stalactites