

# LOCAL GEOLOGICAL SITES

## BRAINTREE DISTRICT



### BraG13 Goldingham Hall Chalk Pit

**Site location:** Disused chalk pit on a track south-west of Goldingham Hall

**Grid Reference:** TL 8321 4006

**Status:** public



#### **Summary of the geological interest:**

Disused and overgrown chalk pit, formerly with exposures of Upper Chalk, Thanet Beds and Anglian till (boulder clay). It takes the form of a large, steep-sided, wooded amphitheatre. Most geological exposures are now obscured except for some chalk visible on the western side adjacent to a small, modern limekiln.

**Site Assessment.** Local Geological Sites (LoGS) in Essex are assessed using criteria based on DEFRA guidance. An assessment form is used which asks key questions under four value categories: scientific, educational, historical and aesthetic. This site has been assessed and qualifies under these criteria.

#### **Scientific interest and site importance:**

Goldingham Hall Chalk Pit has been disused for over a century as it was described as an old chalk pit in the 1929 Sudbury Geological Survey Memoir (Boswell 1929). Boswell describes exposures of chalk with flints overlain by pinkish loam of the Thanet Beds. At the junction was a layer of dark-green sand with green-coated flints (the 'Bull-head Bed'). In the northern part of the pit a few feet of boulder clay could then be seen overlying the chalk in place of the Thanet Beds.

The revised Sudbury memoir (Pattison et al 1993) describes this pit as having up to 3 metres of rubbly chalk of the *Uintacrinus socialis* to *Marsupites testudinarius* zones, overlain by up to 2 metres of green glauconitic clay which "may represent basal Thanet Beds".

A small, brick-built limekiln has recently been constructed adjacent to the chalk face at the western end of the pit by the Gestingthorpe History Group.





*Goldingham Hall Chalk Pit - disused modern lime kiln on west side, looking south, Nov 2023*



*Goldingham Hall Chalk Pit - entrance at north-west corner, looking east, Nov 2023*



*Goldingham Hall Chalk Pit - exposed section on west side, Nov 2023*



*Goldingham Hall Chalk Pit - other exposed section on west side, Nov 2023*



*Goldingham Hall Chalk Pit cleared Nov 2024 Photo R Mercer*



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