

# LOCAL GEOLOGICAL SITES

## MALDON DISTRICT



### MaG7 West Maldon Landslip, Maldon

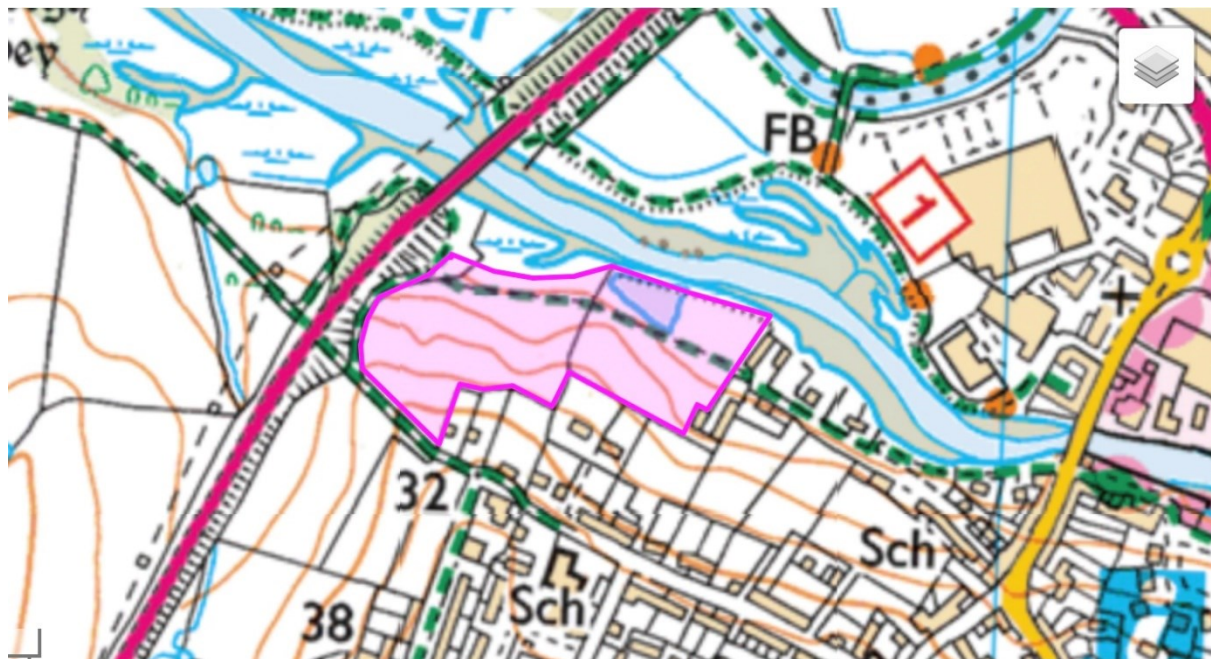
**Site location:** south bank of the River Chelmer, Maldon

**Grid Reference:** TL 8442 0742 to TL 8471 0737

**Status:** Viewable from adjacent roads and public footpath

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

A good example of a London Clay landslip can be seen on the north-facing slope adjacent to the River Chelmer at Maldon. The site is also a Local Wildlife Site and is traversed by a public footpath.



**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**

There are three landslips on the north-facing river cliff of the Chelmer at Maldon. The middle and most obvious slip is referred to as the West Maldon Landslip (Bristow 1985, Hutchinson 1965). It is formed of successive rotational slips in the bedrock of London Clay which is trying to reach a stable angle. Most of the slips are grassed over but small fresh scars indicate that there is still instability. The most active land slipping presumably took place when the river was directly eroding the toes of the landslips. The presence of saltings indicate that erosion has not taken place for a number of years (Bristow 1985).

References:

- BRISTOW, C.R. 1985. **Geology of the country around Chelmsford**. Geological Survey Memoir. British Geological Survey. HMSO.
- HUTCHINSON, J.N. 1965. **A Survey of the Coastal Landslides of Essex and South Suffolk**. Building Research Station Note No. EN 36/65. Ministry of Technology.



View of the West Maldon landslip looking south in 1968. The site is now largely covered with trees and shrubs. Photo: British Geological survey (P210814). The surface of the landslip ground is characteristically hummocky and covered with brambles. This could be clearly seen from the Maldon By-pass (see photograph) but trees have now largely covered the slope. A public footpath traverses the landslip, appropriately called Hilly Fields Wildlife Site.



The West Maldon landslip, June 2023. Photo: Jeff Seward.