

# LOCAL GEOLOGICAL SITES

## UTTLESFORD DISTRICT



### UfdG13 Debden Road Chalk Pit, Newport

**Site location:** Very small roadside chalk pit east of Newport

**Grid Reference:** TL 5244 3384

**Status:** Accessible on roadside adjacent to a layby on Debden Road

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

Very small roadside pit with minor exposure of Upper Chalk overlain by boulder clay (glacial till) consisting of brown clay with chalk pebbles and other erratics. This is one of the few exposures of glacial till in Essex. The site is adjacent to a lay-by on the Debden Road.



**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**

Next to the layby on the north side of the Debden Road is a small overgrown pit with a small exposure of Upper Chalk overlain by boulder clay (glacial till) consisting of light brown clay with chalk pebbles. The till is material dumped by a glacier as it ground its way across the landscape 450,000 years ago.

The chalk is mostly obscured by talus but the junction of the till with the chalk is clearly visible and well defined. As this site is next to a parking area it is an important educational site. The exposure could be considerably improved by cleaning the section and removal of some vegetation. There may be another exposure a few yards to the west but this is obscured by vegetation and talus.



*Newport Road Chalk Pit showing the Chalk/boulder clay junction. Photos: G. Lucy*

