

LOCAL GEOLOGICAL SITES

UTTLESFORD DISTRICT



UfdG24 Mallows Green Chalk Pit, Manuden

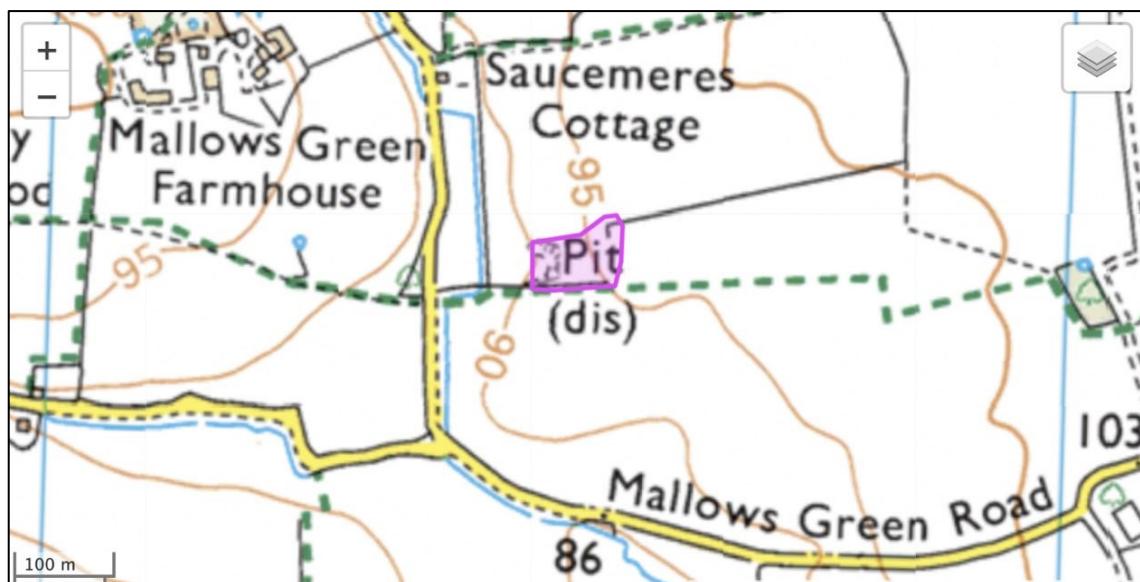
Site location: At Mallows Green, near Manuden, adjacent to a public footpath.

Grid Reference: TL 4753 2641

Status: Private land

Summary of the geological interest:

At Mallows Green, south-west of Manuden, is a disused and extremely overgrown chalk pit cut into the hillside adjacent to a public footpath. It dates back to the nineteenth century. It provided exposures of Upper Chalk overlain by an outlier of Lower London Tertiaries (Thanet Sand or Reading Beds) with a layer of green-coated flints (the 'Bull head bed') at the junction.



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

The pit at Mallows Green was first recorded by Whitaker in the late 19th century (Whitaker et al. 1878) who said that this pit showed the junction of the chalk with the 'Reading Beds'. He described the Reading Beds as being 2 to 3 feet thick and consisting of 'dark green clayey sand, with small patches (4 or 5 inches thick) of pebbles on the top, and a thin layer of green-coated flints in brownish clay at the bottom'. These beds resting on an irregular surface of Chalk.

The area around Mallows Green has a varied geology; in addition to this outlier of Lower London Tertiaries the hill nearby is capped by Kesgrave Sands and Gravels and overlain by boulder clay.

The exposure of Lower London Tertiaries, however degraded, makes this pit an important site.