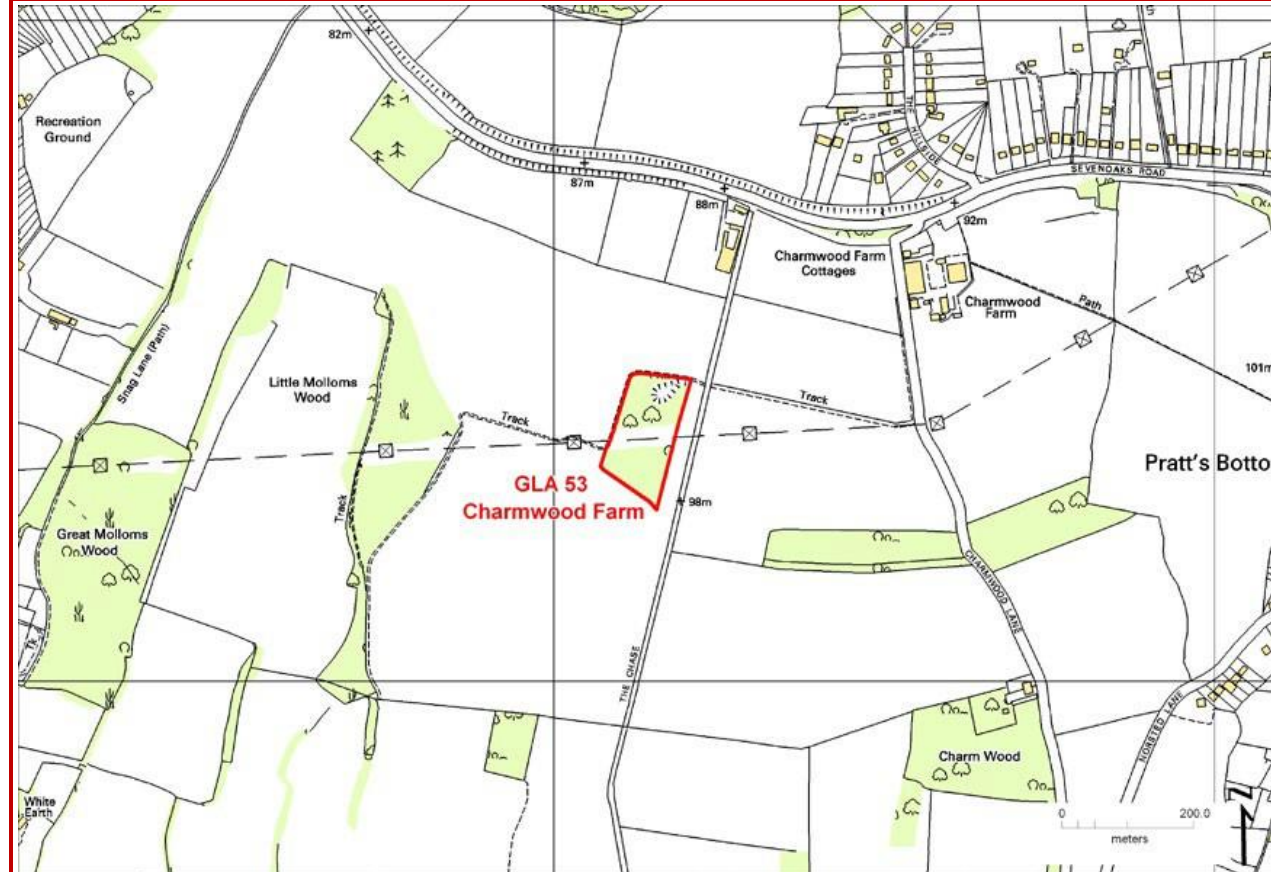


<b>GLA 53 Charmwood Farm Chalk Mine</b>	
Grid Reference: TQ 4616 6244	Site Type: Subterranean chalk pits
Site Area (hectares): 1.64	Current use: Woodland on private farm land
Site ownership: Part of GK Denniss Farms	Borough: London Borough of Bromley
Field surveyor: Vernon Marks, Paul Rainey	Date: February 2011
Current geological designation: LIGS	Other designation: Metropolitan SINC (Norsted Valley Woods)

<b>Site Map</b>	OS Topography © Crown Copyright
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**Stratigraphy and Rock Types**

Time Unit: Late Cretaceous	Rock Unit: probably Seaford Chalk Formation, White Chalk Subgroup
Rock Type: Chalk	Details (Seaford Chalk): Firm white chalk with conspicuous semi-continuous nodular and tabular flint seams. Hardgrounds and thin marls are known from the lowest beds. Some flint nodules are large to very large.

**Site Description**


In a small wood midway between Little Molloms Wood and Charmwood Farm, there are a series of associated depressions and a half-filled open cast chalk quarry. The entrance arch is 1.5m by 1.5m. A steep descent follows into a chamber 4.5m high. A short (9m) blind tunnel leads off on the right and there are two connections, about 3m long, on the left to a parallel tunnel which once had its own entrance. The two parallel tunnels are each about 25m long. In 1992 the Kent Underground Research Group dug a deep exploratory trench but only found loose chalk rubble, probably part of a roof collapse. The site is gated by a metal grille. As most of the surface exposures of chalk in the London area are in Seaford Chalk, this is the likely horizon here although this has not been confirmed.

**Assessment of Site Value**

**Geodiversity topic:** Lithostratigraphy; sedimentology; palaeontology

**Access and Safety**

Aspect	Description
Safety of access	Woodland on private farm land. Entrance to mine covered by a grille
Safety of exposure	The mine is securely protected by a steel grille but access inside could be

	dangerous	
Permission to visit	In 2012, the contact was GK Denniss Farms tel. 01892 770931	
Current condition	Entrance to mine has been cleared of vegetation	
Current conflicting activities	It is managed as a bat hibernation site.	
Restricting conditions	Access and possible overgrowth. Grilles prevent access to mine.	
Nature of exposure	Chalk mine and small open cast chalk quarry. Adits have been driven into the hillside.	
<b>Culture, Heritage &amp; Economic</b>		
<b>Aspect</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Rating</b>
Historic, archaeological & literary associations	Underground site description and history closely based on: Pearman, H., 1973 in: Caves and Tunnels of Kent. Records of Chelsea Spelaeological Society and Le Gear, R.F, 1992 and 1993, Newsletters 32 and 37, Kent Underground Research Group-	8
Aesthetic landscape		2
History of Earth Sciences	Research required (Bromley ref. Library)	4
Economic geology	Former chalk mine	9
<b>GeoScientific Merit</b>		
Geomorphology	None	4
Sedimentology	Environment of deposition	3
Palaeontology	possibly	1
Igneous/mineral/ Metamorphic Geology	None.	0
Structural Geology	Regional structure of Chalk	3
Lithostratigraphy	Seaford Formation, White Chalk Subgroup	6
Potential use	Research; further education; website interpretation.	
Fragility	natural overgrowing around entrance; falling chalk within mine; dumping	
<b>Current Site Value</b>		
Community	Limited value because of private access	4
Education	Possible asset if access & information made accessible	6
<b>Geodiversity value</b>		
LIGS: Fresh chalk provides material for research and there is potential for local education		4
<b>GLA 53 Charmwood Farm chalk pit</b>		
		<p>Entrance to mine with Paul Rainey. Photo: Vernon Marks, 2011</p>