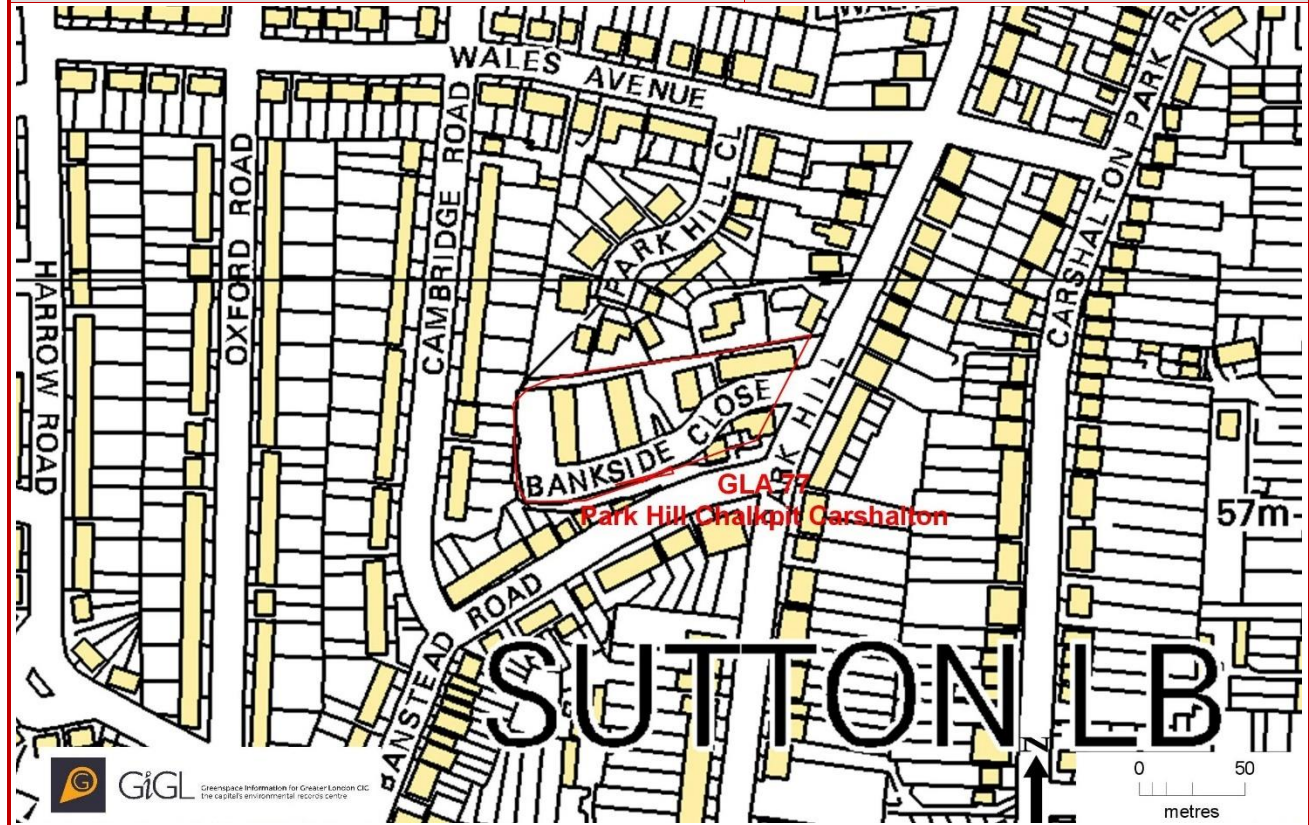


GLA 77 Park Hill Chalk Pit, Carshalton

Grid Reference: TQ 274 639	Site Type: Former Chalk Pit
Site Area (hectares): 0.66	Current use: Housing Estate
Site ownership: Bankside Close Freehold Company (BCFC), managed by HML Management of Croydon (HMLM).	Borough: London Borough of Sutton
Field surveyor: Diana Clements, Paul Rainey, Geoff West	Date: February 2018
Current geological designation: Recommended by Partnership as a LIGS	Other designation: none
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Stratigraphy and Rock Types

Time Unit: Late Cretaceous	Rock Unit: White Chalk Subgroup, probably Seaford Chalk Formation
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

The south side of Carshalton is bounded by the chalk escarpment of the North Downs. The old Park Hill Chalk Pit has been chosen to represent the chalk in the area as the chalk face on the north side of the old quarry can still be seen at the back of the housing estate within Bankside Close. There were formally many chalk pits in the area working the chalk for lime to lay on the London Clay fields just to the north but most are filled in or completely overgrown. The chalk in this area is mapped on the London South map (1998) as 'Upper Chalk' and in more recent editions as 'Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation, Seaford Chalk Formation and Newhaven Chalk Formation Undifferentiated, Chalk Group'. G.W Young 1905 in describing this pit states 'massive, well bedded chalk with many layers of nodular flints in regular courses, with one well-marked tabular flint. The Chalk is well weathered and fossils are scarce in the Zone of *Micraster coranguinum*'. This places it in the Seaford Chalk Formation as are most of the chalk exposures within Greater London. The prominent flint layers within the 22m cliff face are very apparent. Pit Cottage at the top and Pit House at the back are still standing – the house is constructed of knapped flint, presumably from the former pit.

Assessment of Site Value

Geodiversity topic: sedimentology;

Access and Safety		
Aspect	Description	
Safety of access	There is public parking is on the road called Bankside Close (the same name as the estate) but not in the residents' parking areas; it leads down into the former pit from the B278, Parkhill Road. It is a Public Highway only as far as the turnaround. The chalk cliff face is best exposed on the north side of the old pit with access to the northern portion through the car park. Access to the southern face involves going through the private open space between the two rows of housing. There is a sign saying 'Cliff face keep away'	
Safety of exposure	There is a danger that the face could easily become vegetated (Ivy and buddleia are already beginning to take hold) – it will be up to the residents to keep it clear	
Permission to visit	In 2018, the spokesperson for the estate lived in No. 4, otherwise, this is private land so permission should be sought from BCFC (see above)	
Current condition	Good clean face but danger of quickly becoming vegetated.	
Current conflicting activities	Private residential estate	
Restricting conditions	Looking at the face by individuals should not be a problem but groups may not be welcome. Material must not be extracted as this is not allowed but there are fallen blocks.	
Nature of exposure	North face of former chalk pit	
Culture, Heritage & Economic		
Aspect	Description	Rating
Historic, archaeological & literary associations	Old maps show 'Old Chalk Pit' from 1868. Sale documents in archives 1861	5
Aesthetic landscape	Interesting feature within the housing estate	5
History of Earth Sciences	unknown	
Economic geology	Presumably the chalk from the pit was used commercially, napped flint is still in evidence in the adjacent Pit House. London Bo. of Sutton Archives Ref: 48/4/37 show that the area including the houses was put up for auction in 1861. Presumably chalk extraction had ceased by then. The auction notices specify 'fine spring water'.	4
GeoScientific Merit		
Geomorphology	Adjacent to the prominent Dry Valley through Carshalton Beeches	3
Sedimentology	Seaford Chalk Formation	3
Palaeontology	None recorded	0
Igneous/mineral/ Metamorphic Geology	N/A	0
Structural Geology	Carshalton lies on the dip slope of the chalk close to the northern edge of the North Downs, partly on the Chalk, partly on the Thanet Sand. It is featured in the cross-section on 1:50,000 South London Map (270)	3
Lithostratigraphy	Upper Chalk exposure in old quarry face with prominent flints	4
Potential use	Should a trail down the dry valley be contemplated then the pit is just to the northeast of Carshalton Beeches and worth a diversion.	
Fragility	natural overgrowing but the residents were maintaining in 2018	
Current Site Value		
Community	Within housing estate	4
Education	Possible local use in terms of the whole area on the north face of the north downs. Class visits might be problematic	4
Geodiversity value		
Recommended by Partnership as a LIGS: The Chalk Pit is considered worthy of local importance (LIGS) as in 2018 the quarry side was clean and not overgrown. In order to remain as a worthy site it would be necessary to get the assistance of the residents in maintaining the face		4

GLA 77 Park Hill Chalk Pit, Carshalton



February 2018



February 2018



December 2018



Photos: Geoff West