

Geoconservation at Harefield Great Pit

Friday 21 March 2025 Meet 10.30



The objective is to clear the access to the face, both over the grass towards the face and at the face itself, particularly at the 2 main exposures of the Chalk/Upnor in the middle and the Lambeth Group to the right (south) and the intervening passage-way. We will not be venturing up the hill to work on the London Clay Thames Group exposure.

We will try to get permission to clean up the Lambeth Group face itself but it will depend whether there is active badger activity. In any case we have permission from Natural England to clear the scrub so that it can be seen.

Access TQ 051 897, UB9 6AD

Access to the Great Pit is on Church Hill, opposite the sign to St Mary's Church and Anzac War Graves, south of Harefield. By road: From the A40/M40 take the B457 from Swakeleys Roundabout and after 600 m turn left at the roundabout and follow signs to Harefield, turning right at the mini-roundabout just after the 30 mph sign, into the continuation of Harvil Road. This becomes Church Hill just before the quarry is reached. In 2023 parking was possible in the housing estate on Church Road, just south of the quarry. (By public transport: Bus number 331 runs between Uxbridge and Ruislip. The nearest stop is 'St Mary's Road'.) From there walk a few metres up Church Hill to the quarry entrance, opposite the footpath to St Mary's Church where we will meet.

Tools

Stout gloves, tools if you have them (eg secateurs & loppers)

If anyone has something suitable for cutting the grass from the path to the face that would be helpful. We can provide a spade, stiff brush and trowel.

Bring

packed lunch and water

Come prepared for the weather (forecast is Max 15°, light chance and a moderate breeze, small chance of showers)

Hard hat if you wish (to protect from overhead branches more than rock face)

Wear stout boots as the ground is uneven (possibly slippery)

Register: geotrail@londongeopartnership.org.uk with name, mobile, and emergency number.