

Site Name

Sandy Warren, The Lodge Quarry

BEDFORDSHIRE LOCAL GEOLOGICAL SITE DESIGNATION FORM

SITE LOCATION, ACCESS, OWNERSHIP, STATUS & SUITABILITY

(1) **Name of site:** Sandy Warren, The Lodge Quarry, Bedfordshire

(2) **National grid reference:** TL 187 478

(3) **Unitary authority:** Central Bedfordshire

(4) Site access and local amenities

Access is from the B1042 Sandy to Potton road. The site is well signed from the A1 roundabout at Sandy. There are two 'lodges', one of which is near to the main entrance and houses a shop and toilets. There is a large car park outside (fee required for non-RSPB members) and visitors are advised to park here and walk about one kilometre to the quarry. The second 'lodge' is a conference and administrative centre with its own private car park, located at the end of the drive. The quarry is located in the woods to the west of this lodge and it is reached via the 'Quarry Trail' footpath.

(5) **Site ownership:** RSPB

(6) **Mineral rights ownership:** N/A

(7) **Is permission needed to access the site?**

a. No ✓

b. Yes

(8) **Site status:** Active

Disused ✓

Historical

Managed ✓

Restored

New

Other

(9) **Suitable for visits by:** a. General public ✓

b. Small parties ✓

c. Large parties

d. Primary school

e. National Curriculum ✓

f. AS/A-Level

g. Adult ✓

h. Undergraduate teaching ✓

i. Research ✓

(10) **Site suitable for frequent visits by parties?**

a. No

b. Yes ✓

(11) **Should collecting and hammering be encouraged at the site?**

a. No ✓

b. Yes

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SITE DESCRIPTION		
(12) Exposure type:	a. Inland natural outcrop	b. Road cutting
c. Railway cutting	d. Active quarry/pit	e. Disused quarry/pit ✓
f. Old mine workings	g. Mine dump	h. Active mine
(13) Dimensions of exposure of interest: c. 200m long with a 15m face		
(14) Main interest(s):	a. Structural	b. Geomorphological
	d. Palaeontological	e. Petrological ✓
		c. Mineralogical
		f. Stratigraphical ✓
g. Other: Wildlife regeneration in a former quarry. Nearby are two Scheduled Monuments – both Iron Age hillforts.		
<p>(15) Summary description and reason for designation An extensive quarried face of Woburn Sands Formation (formerly the Lower Greensand) providing a rare opportunity to examine these rocks in a consolidated and stable exposure. Sedimentary structures preserved here allow palaeo-environmental reconstructions to be made, linking this part of the county with the more extensive exposures of similar rocks around Woburn and Leighton Buzzard. The quarry provided building stone for local use from medieval times to the 18th century. Examples include the churches at Sandy and Everton, as well as the packhorse bridge at Sutton.</p>		
<p>(16) What threats exist for the site? Very few as the quarry is well maintained by the RSPB as part of the Nature Reserve. Over time, vegetation will obscure the faces and a balance between allowing it to develop in order to provide nesting sites and keeping the face clear will have to be sought.</p>		
<p>(17) What additional work is required to enhance the site? None, other than maintaining the existing information board which describes the outcrop in a very general way. A B&LGG information leaflet (see below) provides further information, although a more specific stratigraphic log of the quarry face would improve it.</p>		
<p>(18) Published/unpublished references to the site and wider area Allen, J. R. L. 1981. Lower Cretaceous tides revealed by cross-bedding with mud-drapes. <i>Nature</i>, 289, 579-581. Eysers, J. 1991. The influence of tectonics on early Cretaceous sedimentation in Bedfordshire, England. <i>Journal of the Geological Society of London</i>, 49, 405-414. Moorlock, B.S.P. <i>et al.</i> 2003. <i>Geology of the Biggleswade district – a brief explanation of the geological map Sheet 204 Biggleswade (England and Wales)</i>. B&B Press Ltd, Rotherham. Shephard-Thorn, E. R. <i>et al.</i> 1986. An outline study of the Lower Greensand of parts of south-east England. <i>Technical Report of the British Geological Survey</i>, WF/MN/86/1. <i>Lower Greensand – The Lodge, Sandy Warren Quarry</i>. B&LGG information leaflet. www.bedsrigs.org.uk</p>		

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SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE		
(19) Does the site exhibit features of local/regional importance?	a. No	b. Yes ✓
(20) Is the site already a designated SSSI?	a. No ✓	b. Yes
(21) Collector interest:	a. Rare species	b. Common species
	d. Regional significance	c. Local significance
	e. National significance	
(22) List of confirmed fossils, minerals, etc: N/A		

HISTORICAL/AESTHETIC VALUE		
(23) Does the site have important historical associations?	a. No ✓	b. Yes
(24) Does the site form a key part of an attractive or evocative landscape?	a. No ✓	b. Yes
(25) Full description of site and its significance This is a good exposure of the Lower Cretaceous Woburn Sands. The former quarry presents a stable 15m-high cliff with several 'windows' along its length that are free of vegetation. The cliff shows good examples of various types of sandstone (including pebble beds and nodular horizons), mud-flake conglomerates and cross-bedding. The latter can be used to interpret current directions in the depositional environment for this succession, which was probably a tidal seaway. Steps down to a viewing platform and a new interpretation board have been constructed making it suitable for educational purposes. It is also a site that can be used to show an ecological succession of plants following quarrying activity, and the link between the sandy (acidic) soils and the plants and animal communities that survive there.		

RECORDER'S DETAILS	
(26) Name: Dr Jill Eyers	(27) Organisation: Consultant geologist working on behalf of B&LGG
(28) Date of designation: August 2005	

CURRENT SITE CONDITION
(29) Site condition at March 2009 is GOOD; assessed by Martin Whiteley.

NOTES
(30) Form revised and updated by Dr Martin Whiteley, B&LGG Local Geological Site Manager, November 2009. For further details contact Anne Williams: annew36@hotmail.com