DORSET LOCAL GEOLOGICAL SITES SURVEY

Site number	G SY98/11
Site name	Redcliff Point, Arne

Survey type	Fieldwork	Site grid	SY932867
Date of survey	1994	Surveyor	JT
Area surveyed	River cliff	Date of designation	17.8.1994

Summary description

Tertiary, Eocene, Poole Formation, Agglestone Grits and Corfe Member
The Agglestone Grits consists of a coarse irony sandstone separated from red breccias below by a conspicuous even bedding plane. The Corfe Member has quartz pebbles at the top followed below by bright red sand with many bands of breecia, consisting of mottled white and red loamy clay set at all angles in red sand.

Site description
Tertiary, Eocene, Poole Formation, Agglestone Grits and Corfe Member
The Poole Formation consists of alternating sands and clays deposited in a river estuary about 35 million years ago. The alternation of sands and clays is thought to result from fluctuating sea levels. The sands were deposited when sea level was further away from the Poole basin, and the river flowing faster. The clays were deposited when the sea reached further into the Poole basin and the changing mineralisation caused the finer clay particles to deposit.

The Agglestone Grits and Corfe Member are at the top of the sequence, in which the named beds are (from oldest up) Creekmoor sand and clay) these names refer to the location of outcrop on the Poole town side of the harbour. On the Wareham and Studland side of the harbour the general sequence is the same, but being nearer to the edge of the basin, which is and was bounded by Chalk hills, the precise details of the Formation tend to be different.

DERC geology file no.	SY98-36-27
Published references	see DERC file
DIGS visits	2012
Report to UKRIGS	2012
Future of site	Overgrown, but landowner requests no conservation in order to discourage climbing by young visitors to caravan site next door.

2012-12-19 DIGS JT