

DORSET LOCAL GEOLOGICAL SITES SURVEY

Site number G SY98/13

Site name Steeple Chalk pit

Summary description

Cretaceous, Lower and Middle Chalk. Geomorphological interest.

The base of the Middle Chalk dips 55° N and shows some group 3 shears (south dipping thrust faults). The steeply dipping Chalk, and the faults, are evidence of earth movements about 20 million years ago.

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This small pit, which remains clear without vegetation, is one of a series of Chalk pits along the Purbeck Chalk ridge which show how the Chalk has been pushed upwards by earth movements, and how the dip changes along the ridge. Other pits which could have shown this feature have been allowed to disappear under vegetation, or have been deliberately covered. (Glebe Farm pit and Cocknowle in particular).

This pit is within the army ranges, though always accessible, and is occasionally cleaned by DIGS parties.

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