

SITE

Name: Peak Hill and Mutters Moor

Parish/area: Sidmouth/Otterton

Local Authority: East Devon

National Grid Ref: SY 109 868 - 106 895

OS Sheets: 1:50k 192 **1:10k** SY18 NW, **GS Sheet 1:50k** 326/340

Locality Description: Public access land lying to the north and south of Pinn Lane at Peak Hill, about 1.5km west of Sidmouth.

Nature and Status of Site: Open pasture, heathland and forestry with associated rides and footpaths. A County Geological Site (www.devonrigs.org.uk).

Summary of Geological / Geomorphological Interest: The area is a geological type locality for Tertiary gravels and also displays a wide range of interesting geological and geomorphological features which can be readily interpreted for educational purposes. Two gravel types can be seen, along with chalk flints of Cretaceous age that were eroded and incorporated into the gravels. The underlying Greensand can be seen as the yellowish sand thrown out of rabbit holes. The junction between the base of the Greensand and the older Mercia Mudstone beneath produces a spring line on the west of Peak Hill. The locality is frequently visited by the public and has a wildlife interpretation board.

Safety Considerations: No specific points of note.

Educational Age Groups: Secondary, College/6th Form, University.

Parking and Access: Buses run from Sidmouth along Peak Hill Road, directly to the south of the site. For bus timetable details, visit www.traveline.org.uk. There are also roadside car parks at Peak Hill. Access from both car parks and bus stops from here is on foot by footpaths to land open to the general public.

Site Owner: Clinton Devon Estates and Pinn Barton.

References:

Isaac, K. P., 1979, Tertiary Silcretes of the Sidmouth Area, East Devon, Proceedings of the Ussher Society, Vol. 4, pp. 341-54.

Isaac, K. P., 1981. Tertiary weathering profiles in the plateau deposits of East Devon, Proceedings of the Geologists' Association, 1981, Vol. 92, pp. 159-68.

Isaac, K. P., 1983a. Tertiary lateritic weathering in Devon, England, and the Palaeogene continental environment of South West England, Proceedings of the Geologists' Association, 1983, Vol. 94, pp. 105-14.

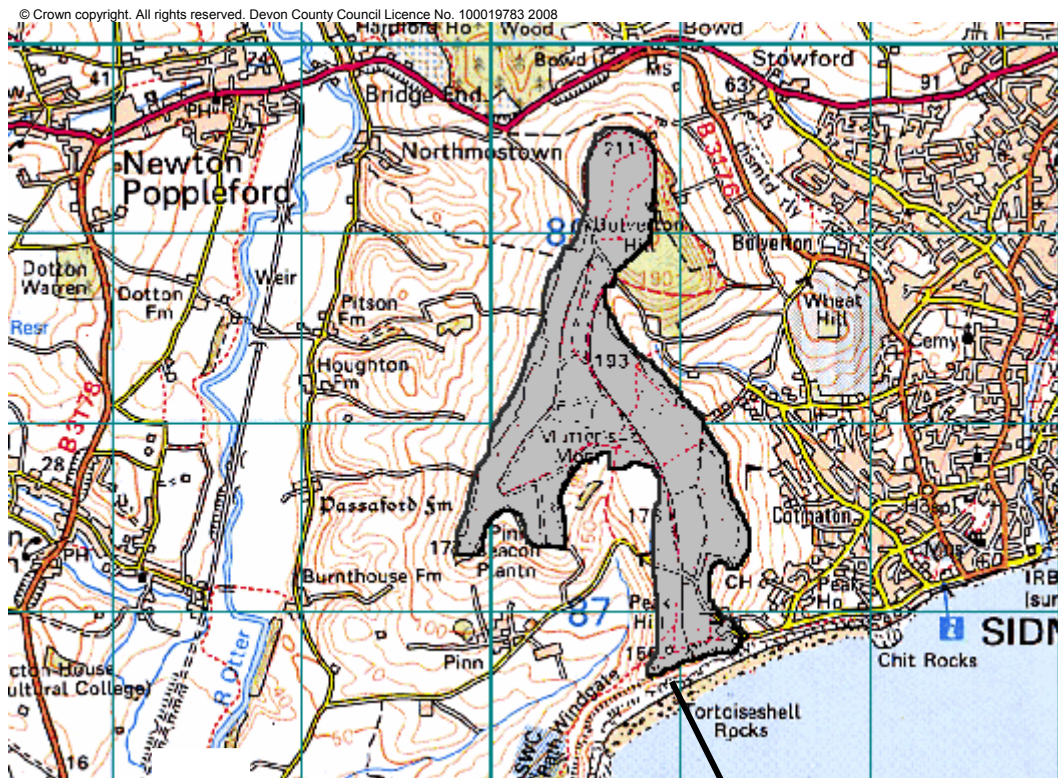
Isaac, K. P., 1983b. Silica diagenesis of Palaeogene residual deposits in Devon, England". Proceedings of the Geologists' Association, 1983, Vol. 94, pp. 181-6.

Detailed Geology: Tertiary (Palaeocene) Peak Hill Gravel, and water-lain Mutters Moor Gravel derived from the Peak Hill Gravel. The area is the type locality for these gravels. Spreads of residual chalk flint gravel derived from the Peak Hill Gravel and the overlying Mutters Moor Gravel occur in many places. Fossils indicating its Cretaceous age may be found in the flint, much of which has formed around sponges. A feature of the gravel spreads is fragments and sometimes large blocks of silcrete consisting of fragments of flint set in a hard siliceous matrix. The silcrete indicates a hot dry climate at the time of formation. Fragments of ferruginous sandstone also of Eocene age occur. The gravels rest on Upper Greensand, seen as yellowish sand thrown out from burrows on the south side of Pinn Lane. The junction of the Upper Greensand with the underlying Triassic Mercia Mudstone is marked by a spring line on the west of Peak Hill. The springs have caused a landslip, indicated by irregular undulating ground.

LOCATION PLAN

PEAK HILL AND MUTTERS MOOR SIDMOUTH, EAST DEVON

National Grid Ref: SY 109 868 - 106 895



Scale 1: 40,000



Site Locality

Land to north and south of
Pinn Lane at Peak Hill

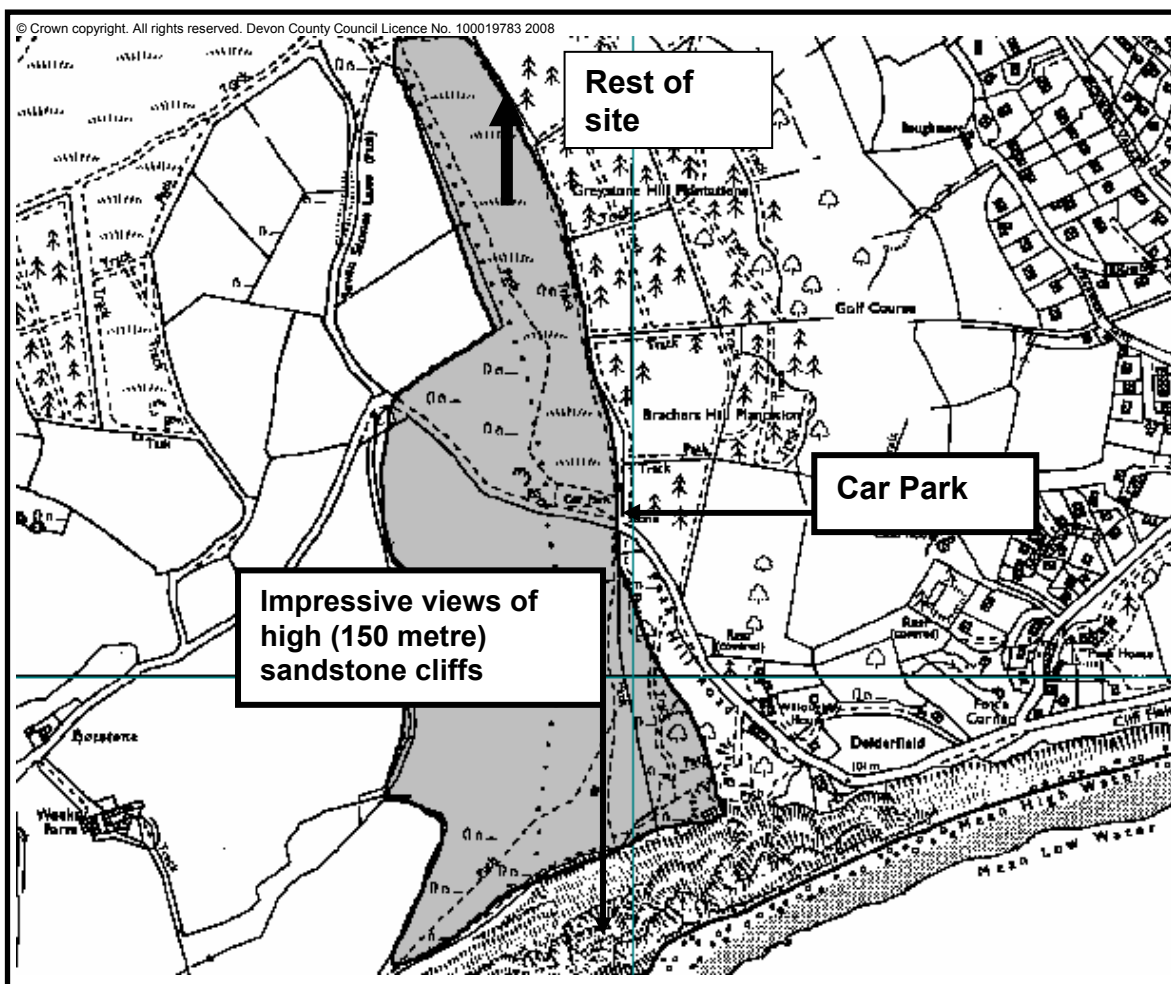
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SITE PLAN

PEAK HILL AND MUTTERS MOOR SIDMOUTH/OTTERTON, EAST DEVON

National Grid Ref: SY 109 868 - 106 895



Key Locality

Scale 1: 10,000

Main Points of Interest:

- Type locality for two gravel types of Tertiary age, together with chalk flints eroded and incorporated into the gravels.
- Underlying Greensand seen as the yellowish sand thrown out from rabbit holes.
- A spring line on the west of Peak Hill marking the junction of the base of the Greensand with the older mercia mudstone beneath.

PEAK HILL AND MUTTERS MOOR



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Exposure of surface deposits rich in fragments of Upper Greensand (Cretaceous) chert on Peak Hill (head?)



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General view of Muttons Moor: note heathland vegetation developed on poor soils

© Clyde Bish



Section in the Mutters Moor Gravels on Mutters Moor

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Palaeogene silcrete development on Mutters Moor