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PLoWS 11 Limefield Pit (0.4 ha) TL 541395

This SINC was called Little Walden Road quarry, but the remaining land, now an Essex Wildlife Trust reserve, is now called Limefield Pit. This old quarry supported a very varied flora and fauna, with a relict chalk grassland vegetation which included Bee Orchid (*Ophrys apifera**) and Pyramidal Orchid (*Anacamptis pyramidalis**). The exposed cliff face is of geological interest. This site was formerly larger and designated prior to the construction of the adjacent houses. The remaining fragment does not support any of the key chalk grassland species formerly present. It may have invertebrate interest, but this requires further survey work.

Action: Invertebrate surveys should be a high priority. More dynamic measures would include removing much of the dumped soil material from the floor of the quarry, to try and regain its original landform.