

© UKRIGS Education Project: Earth Science On-Site

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DRYHILL NATURE RESERVE, KENT: SITE LOCATION AND ACCESS

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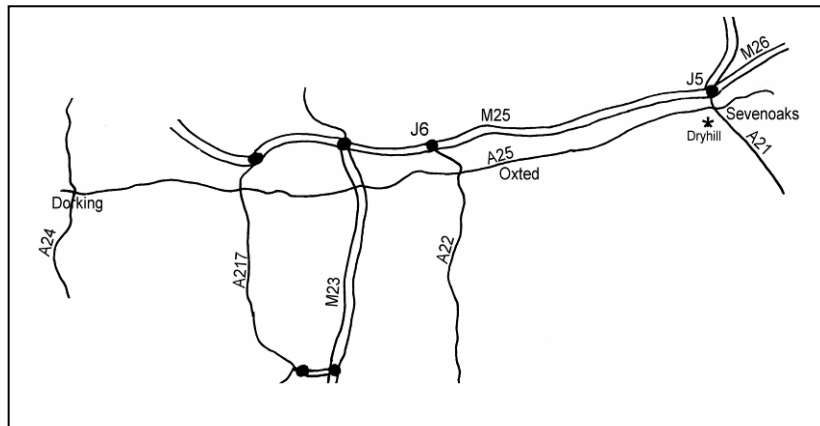


Figure 1 Location Map For Dryhill Nature Reserve.

SITE NAME: DRYHILL NATURE RESERVE, administered by Kent County Council and Sevenoaks District Council.

STATUS: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Local Planning Authorities: Kent County Council; Sevenoaks District Council.

GRID REFERENCE: TQ 498553

OS MAPS: 1:50,000 Landranger, 188 Maidstone & Royal Tunbridge Wells.
1:25,000 Explorer Sheet 147
1:10,000 TQ 45 NE and TQ 55 NW

BGS MAPS: Sheet 287 Sevenoaks

DIRECTIONS: The site is close to the junction of the A25 and the A21 at Sevenoaks. **The nearby junction on the M25 has limited access.**

FROM THE WEST: Approach along the M25 to Junction 5, and onto the M26, then immediately take the left turning for the A21, southbound. After 1km turn right onto the A25 and proceed westwards for half a kilometre. At the end of the dual carriageway the Dryhill picnic site is signposted to the left at the small crossroads. Proceed carefully for half a kilometre along the very narrow, but frequently used, Dryhill Lane then turn left into the site. There is parking for cars and minibuses along the south side of the approach road to the car park, which is about 250 metres further on to the east.

FROM THE EAST: Approach along the M20 and at Junction 3 fork left onto the M26 and exit almost immediately at Junction 2A for the A25 to Sevenoaks. Cross the A21 and continue for half a kilometre on the A25. At the end of the dual carriageway the Dryhill picnic site is signposted to the left at the small crossroads. Proceed carefully for half a kilometre along the very narrow, but frequently used, Dryhill Lane then turn left into the site. There is parking for cars and minibuses along the south side of the approach road to the car park, which is about 250 metres further on to the east.

FROM THE SOUTHWEST: Approach along the A24, and at Dorking take the A25 and A217 to Junction 8 of the M25 and turn eastwards. Then follow the directions from the west (above).

FROM THE SOUTH: Take the A264 to the start of the M23, Junction 11. Join the M25 at Junction 7/8 and turn east. Then follow the instructions from the west (above).

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INFORMATION: As a courtesy, and to aid monitoring of the use of this important site, please contact Kent County Council before visiting.

EMAIL: countryparks@kent.gov.uk

TELEPHONE: 01732 823570

The site is open from 8:30 am to 8:30 pm, and there is a 50p parking fee (£1 on Sunday and Holidays). There is a lockable barrier at a height of 3 metres, which is not an obstruction to normal access by cars or minibuses.

There are no toilet facilities close to this site. There is no cover in inclement weather. There is no proper turning point for coaches.

WHEELCHAIR ACCESS: This site has few formal paths, but is generally level and grassy. The base of some exposures may be approachable, with care, by wheelchair.

INITIAL RISK ASSESSMENT:

All group leaders should meet with their parties prior to the *On-Site* visit and impress upon participants the educational nature of the event, and the need for extra consideration for the safety of themselves and others.

Each group should have a member of staff proficient in First Aid, and carry a mobile telephone for emergencies.

There is no substitute for group leaders viewing the site before the field visit and making their own risk assessment, according to the requirements of their own Local Authority. The following assessment is only a guide.

The site itself is open all day everyday. However there are no toilet or shop facilities in the immediate area, and it is suggested that Motorway service facilities are used instead.

For further information on conducting a risk assessment go to the National Stone Centre website:

<http://www.nationalstonecentre.org.uk>

RISK	ACTION
Dryhill Lane is a minor road with no footpaths.	Drive carefully along this approach road.
Sites 3 and 4 have faces a few metres high (although site 4 is fenced).	Use hard hats, and keep groups on the quarry floor.
The area is used by many to exercise their dogs	Warn pupils not to approach these animals.
The ground is generally level but may, at times, have long grass and nettles. The base of several faces have slippery sandy scree.	Insist on sensible behaviour, stout footwear and waterproof clothing.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION: Dryhill is an inactive aggregate and building stone quarry, excavated into folded Hythe Beds, which are of Lower Cretaceous age. It is now a picnic site administered by Kent County Council. Two rock types are exposed; limestone "Rag" and sandstone "Hassock" in anticlinal and synclinal folds.

No material should be hammered, collected or removed from this protected site