

BUTLEY FOREST PIT



This **Red Crag** pit is on Forestry Commission open access land, with footpath access from the road just to the south of Butley Corner (TM367494). It is a south-facing, warm and colourful pit in coniferous, birch and alder woodland.

Quarried for crag for Forestry Commission tracks, its two 5m vertical faces show good exposures of fossiliferous Red Crag, a marine sand stained with iron oxides (giving it its name). The upper layer is a large cross bedded unit with tube-like trace fossils.



The lower Crag unit has small-scale current bedding and yields (usually broken) fossils of *Neptunea contraria*, *Glycimeris*, *Arcopagia*, *Chlamys*, *Macoma* and other molluscs.

Shelly Red Crag, about 2.5 million years old, outcrops in Suffolk in the Shotley, Felixstowe and Bawdsey peninsulas, with smaller patches at Battisford, Sudbury and Sproughton.

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