

## OTLEY GULL

This charming little wooded **stream valley** in the arable farm land of the glacial till country makes a delightful interlude in the walk along the footpath from Otley to Ashbocking. The footpath follows the right bank of stream, a tributary of the River Lark, which in turn flows into the River Deben via the River Fynn at Martlesham. Here, a 400m stretch of the stream valley is incised into the underlying till, the Chalky Boulder Clay.

The valley sides of the Gull are convex at the top, but with a steep slopes (25°+) leading down to the stream, the mean depth of incision being 3.5m. The bedload is mostly, sub-rounded chalk pebbles with some flint, consistent with their origin in the Chalky Boulder Clay, which is exposed in places in the valley sides.

A variety of fluvial landforms are exhibited within the Gull. The mean channel width is 0.75m and there are several incised meanders, with a well-developed alluvial fan near the upstream end of the Gull and a river terrace at the downstream end. The steep slopes in the till show a number of mass movement features, producing slopes of up to 50° in places.

Small, incised valley landforms like Otley Gull are found in many parts of Suffolk. George Arnott (*The Place-names of the Deben Valley Parishes*, 1946) suggests that the term 'gull' comes from the Middle English word 'gole' meaning a ditch or stream. He adds that in Suffolk it has come to refer to a watercourse deeply scoured by force of water.



Chalky Boulder Clay

bed load

