



## Field meeting: Karst hydrology of the Hertfordshire Chalk Water End & Essendon Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2023

The Chalk isn't traditionally thought of as karstic, but in Hertfordshire there are major springs, dolines and significant sinking streams and evidence of rapid karstic flow between them. This is amenable to tracing by methodologies traditionally used in karst. Importantly the Chalk is a major source of drinking water supply and the karstic nature of the Chalk impacts on water supply quality. This trip will look at the geology, karst geomorphology and hydrology of some of the major karstic features in the Hertfordshire Chalk, including the Water End stream sinks and discuss recent research into the karst hydrogeology and tracer testing results. The day will involve a 2.5 mile walk on good footpaths before lunch and shorter walks in the afternoon.

### Itinerary:

- 10-00 Meet at *The Woodman Inn*, 21 Warrengate Rd, Brookmans Park, Hatfield AL9 7TT
- 10-15 Depart to walk to the stream sinks at Potterell's Brook and Water End, then following the overflow channel of the Mimshall Brook toward the River Colne, returning via stream sinks at Potwells.
- 13-00 Lunch at The Woodman Inn.
- 14-00 Depart to visit the major stream sink on the Catharine Bourne, parking at St. Albans Road (B556), South Mimms EN6 3PJ, followed by a short walk.
- 15-00 Drive to parking at *The Candlestick*, West End Lane, Essendon Hatfield AL9 6BA. Walk to Deeve Wood and Essendon Brook to visit stream sinks and tracer injection sites
- 16-30 Finish, drinks and discussion at The Candlestick

For those wishing to eat at The Woodman Inn their menus can be found at <https://thewoodmaninn.com/>

Anyone wishing to attend should register for the event using the form below. Further details will be sent to those who register. The deadline for registration is **20th March 2023**.

For more information please check the BCRA website or contact Simon Bottrell.  
S.Bottrell[at]leeds.ac.uk.