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Chalk rafts in Anglian till in north Hertfordshire

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Recent mapping has confirmed the presence, and for the first time demonstrated the full extent, of large bodies of displaced chalk associated with till on the scarp south of Royston. A simple model for the emplacement of these chalk rafts (schollen) within Anglian (Lowestoft) till against the northward-facing scarp formed of Upper Chalk is proposed. An early compressional ice environment encouraged the entrainment of large rafts of the hard nodular Chalk Rock which were incorporated into the base of the advancing Anglian ice sheet spreading out from the Wash area. This heavily laden ice stagnated, as it impinged on a second scarp feature and was overridden by ice without significant chalk rafts. Subsequent wasting of the Lowestoft ice sheet created an environment within which normal faulting and down-scarp slumping of the rafts occurred.



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