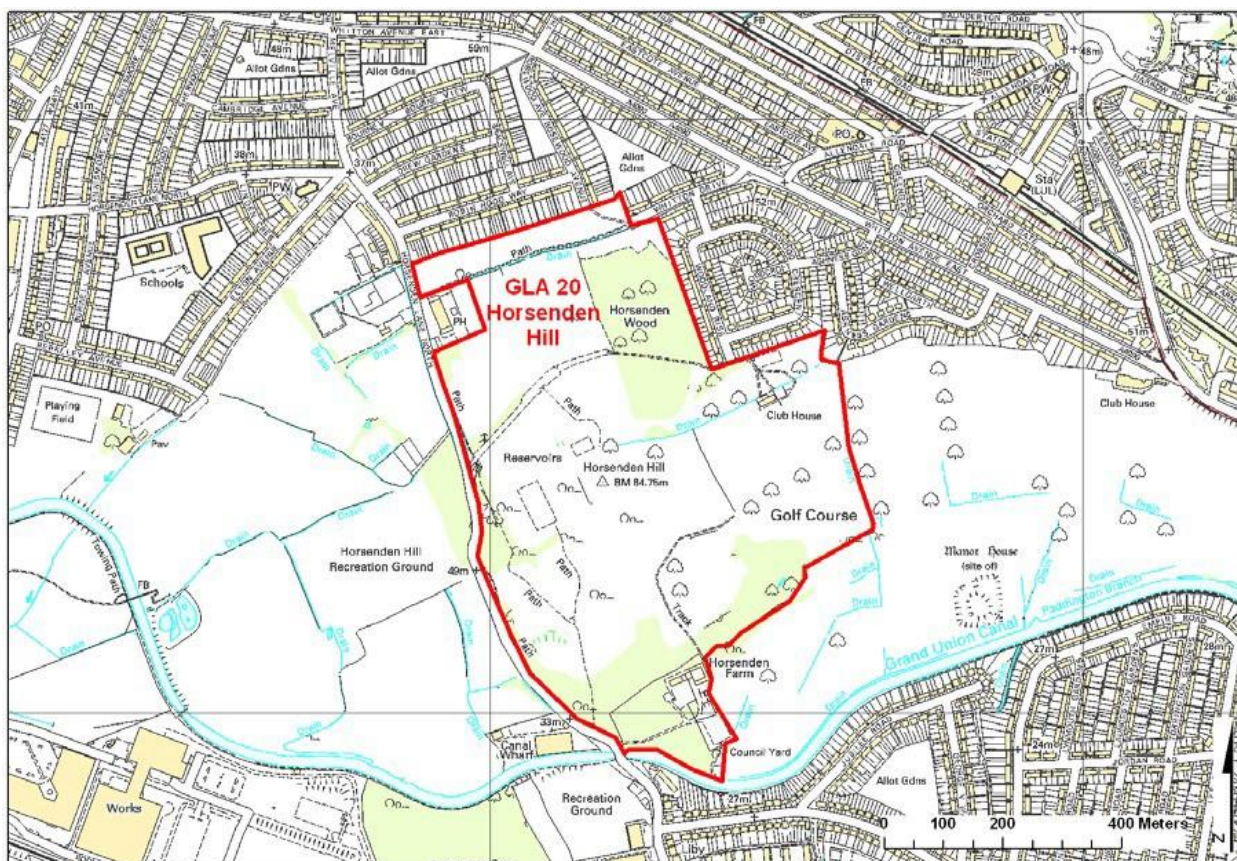


GLA 20 Horsenden Hill

Grid Reference: TQ 1656 8438	Site Type: Natural exposure
Site Area (hectares): 43.15	Current use: Recreational land
Site ownership: London Borough of Ealing	Borough: London Borough of Ealing
Field surveyor: Joanna Brayson	Date: December 2007
Revisited: Ann Davidson	Date: May 2016
Current geological designation: Adopted RIGS	Other designation: Metropolitan SINC (Horsenden Hill)

Site Map

OS Topography © Crown Copyright



Stratigraphy and Rock Types

Time Unit: Pleistocene	Rock Unit: Dollis Hill Gravel, Member of the Sudbury Formation
Rock Type: Sand and gravel	Details: Gravel, sandy and clayey in part, with some laminated silty beds. Sand and gravel, locally with lenses of silt, clay or peat and organic material.
Time Unit: Eocene	Rock Unit: Claygate Member, London Clay Formation, Thames Group
Rock Type: Sand, silt and clay	Details: Interbedded fine-grained sand, silt and clay.
Time Unit: Eocene	Rock Unit: London Clay Formation. Thames Group
Rock Type: Clay, silt, sand	Details: Fine, sandy, silty clay/clayey silt. Glauconitic at base.

Site Description

This site is a hill in the London Clay capped by the Claygate Member and Dollis Hill Gravel Formation. The Dollis Hill Gravel is a river terrace deposit from the pre-diversionary Thames. It forms hill-caps that decline in elevation northwards, indicating deposition in south-bank tributaries of the ancestral Thames. The gravel is composed of angular flint (58%), rounded flint (32%), quartz/quartzite (1.8%) and Lower Greensand chert (7%).

Horsenden Hill is the highest point in North West London with excellent views of the surrounding area. There are information boards explaining the view, this would be an ideal position to explain the geological landscape.

Assessment of Site Value		
Geodiversity topic: Geomorphology; lithostratigraphy; sedimentology.		
Access and Safety		
Aspect	Description	
Safety of access	Footpaths from car park up hill, through woods and some fields with livestock – care should be taken.	
Safety of exposure	Mostly adjacent to footpaths, some slippery due to clay nature of London Clay.	
Permission to visit	Open access, contact the ranger's office for group visits.	
Current condition	Outcrops are small, mostly grassland or woods.	
Current conflicting activities	None.	
Restricting conditions	None.	
Nature of exposure	Small exposures in fields and in woodland.	
Culture, Heritage & Economic		
Aspect	Description	Rating
Historic, archaeological & literary associations	Site of an ancient hillfort.	8
Aesthetic landscape	Excellent views of surrounding area from this highest point in north-west London (site of a trig point).	8
History of Earth Sciences	Composition of gravel – provenance of material.	4
Economic geology	None.	0
GeoScientific Merit		
Geomorphology	Formation of hill.	4
Sedimentology	Sedimentary environments and provenance.	4
Palaeontology	None.	0
Igneous/mineral/ Metamorphic Geology	None.	0
Structural Geology	None.	0
Lithostratigraphy	Relationship between bedrock and terrace gravels.	4
Potential use	Research; on-site interpretation; on-site geotrail.	
Fragility	Natural overgrowing.	
Current Site Value		
Community	Used daily by local community. On the Capital Ring	10
Education		6
Geodiversity value		
RIGS: Small exposures of units accompanied by good geomorphological features and good access.		5

GLA 20 Horsenden Hill



View to the north with spire of St. Mary's, Harrow-on-the-Hill.



View slightly north of east with Wembley Stadium.

Photos: Ann Davidson, May 2016