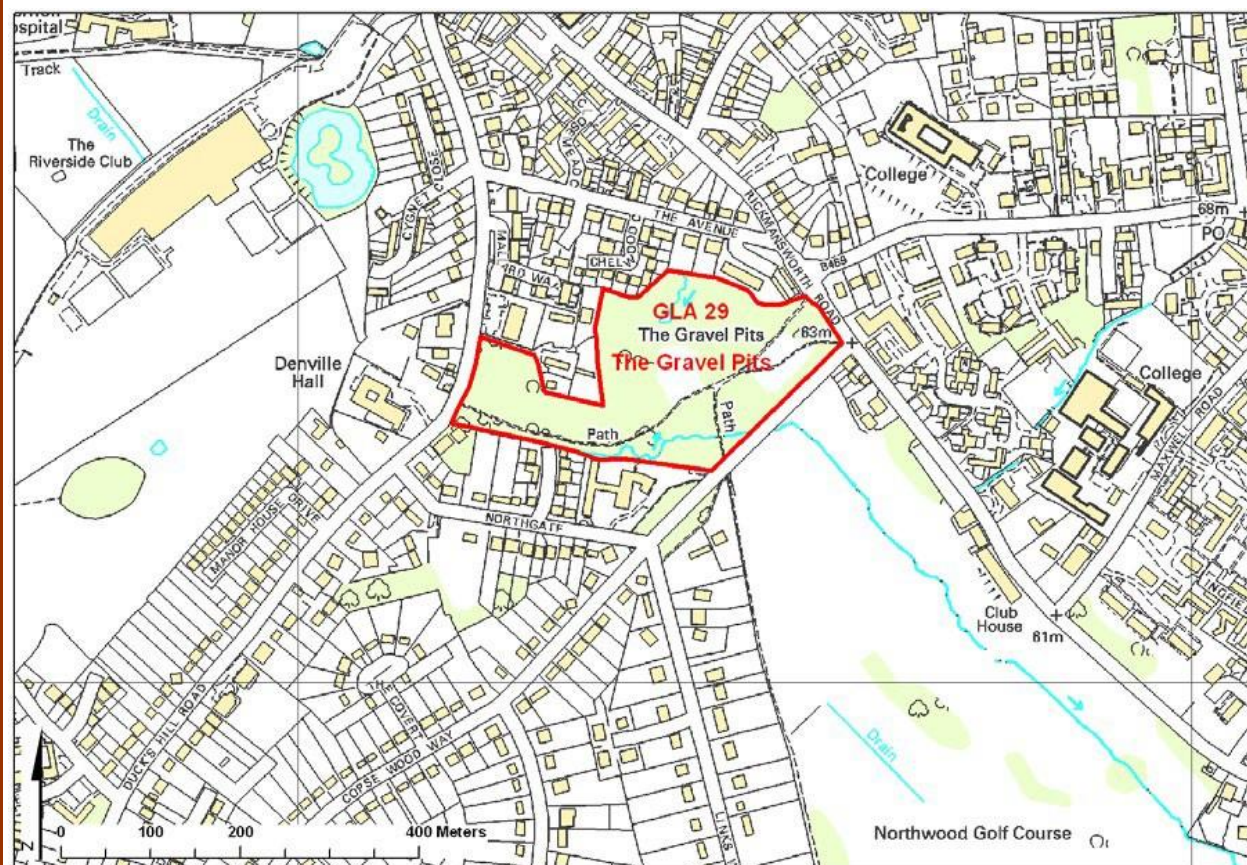


GLA 29 The Gravel Pits, Northwood

| | |
|--|--|
| Grid Reference: TQ 0839 9135 | Site Type: Former quarry works |
| Site Area (hectares): 5.47 | Current use: Recreational land |
| Site ownership: London Borough of Hillingdon | Borough: London Borough of Hillingdon |
| Field surveyor: Joanna Brayson | Date: September 2010 |
| Revisited: Allan Wheeler | Date: September 2020 |
| Current geological designation: RIGS | Other designation: Borough Grade II SINC (Gravel Pit, Northwood) |

Site Map

OS Topography © Crown Copyright



Stratigraphy and Rock Types

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Time Unit: Paleocene-Eocene | Rock Unit: Lambeth Group (Upnor and Reading Formations) |
| Rock Type: Sand and gravel | Details: Interleaved red and variegated clays and sands. |

Site Description



An area of woodland covering old gravel pits in the Lambeth Group. The gravel from these pits was used for several hundred years for road mending in the area. This has created an interesting landscape of numerous hillocks and hollows. The gravel was described as 'worked out' in 1898 and the area was saved as a public amenity in commemoration of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee the previous year.

Assessment of Site Value

Geodiversity topic: Lithostratigraphy; sedimentology; economic geology.

Access and Safety

| Aspect | Description |
|--------------------|---|
| Safety of access | Footpaths and steps (installed 2014) into one of the pits. There are four access points to the Gravel pits and on street parking is available on Cope Wood Way and Buttsmead. Railway access is available via Northwood Station (London Underground Metropolitan Line), which is about 1km away and bus 282 provides local links to Eastcote. |
| Safety of exposure | In the tops of the hillocks kept exposed by trampling and occasional larger |

| | | |
|---|--|---------------|
| | exposures of gravel from badger spoil. | |
| Permission to visit | Open access. | |
| Current condition | Overgrown; some sand exposed as badger spoil. | |
| Current conflicting activities | None. | |
| Restricting conditions | None. | |
| Nature of exposure | Old gravel pits in woods. | |
| Culture, Heritage & Economic | | |
| Aspect | Description | Rating |
| Historic, archaeological & literary associations | Historic pits (information from Ruislip, Northwood and Eastcote Local History Society). | 8 |
| Aesthetic landscape | Valuable green space for the local community. | 8 |
| History of Earth Sciences | | |
| Economic geology | Gravel pits used for road mending. | 8 |
| GeoScientific Merit | | |
| Geomorphology | None. | 0 |
| Sedimentology | Composition of sands and gravels. | 6 |
| Palaeontology | None. | 0 |
| Igneous/mineral/ Metamorphic Geology | None. | 0 |
| Structural Geology | None. | 0 |
| Lithostratigraphy | Correlation with other units. | 6 |
| Potential use | Research; school education; on-site interpretation. | |
| Fragility | Natural overgrowing. | |
| Current Site Value | | |
| Community | Used daily by local community. There are boards describing a Nature Trail through the woods and further information on the website of the Northwood Residents Association: www.northwoodresidents.co.uk/index.php/northwood-gravel-pits The Gravel Pits also feature on https://archive.hillingdon.gov.uk/thegravelpits | 10 |
| Education | Good site for local schools – history and geology. | 4 |
| Geodiversity value | | |
| RIGS: Well used local site with information. | | 4 |
| GLA 29 The Gravel Pits, Northwood | | |
|  |  | |
| Sand from Reading Fm - typical hummock and hollow landscape | Rounded black pebbles on the paths may relate to the top of the Upnor Formation (Lambeth Group) | |
| Photos. A. Wheeler, 2020 | | |