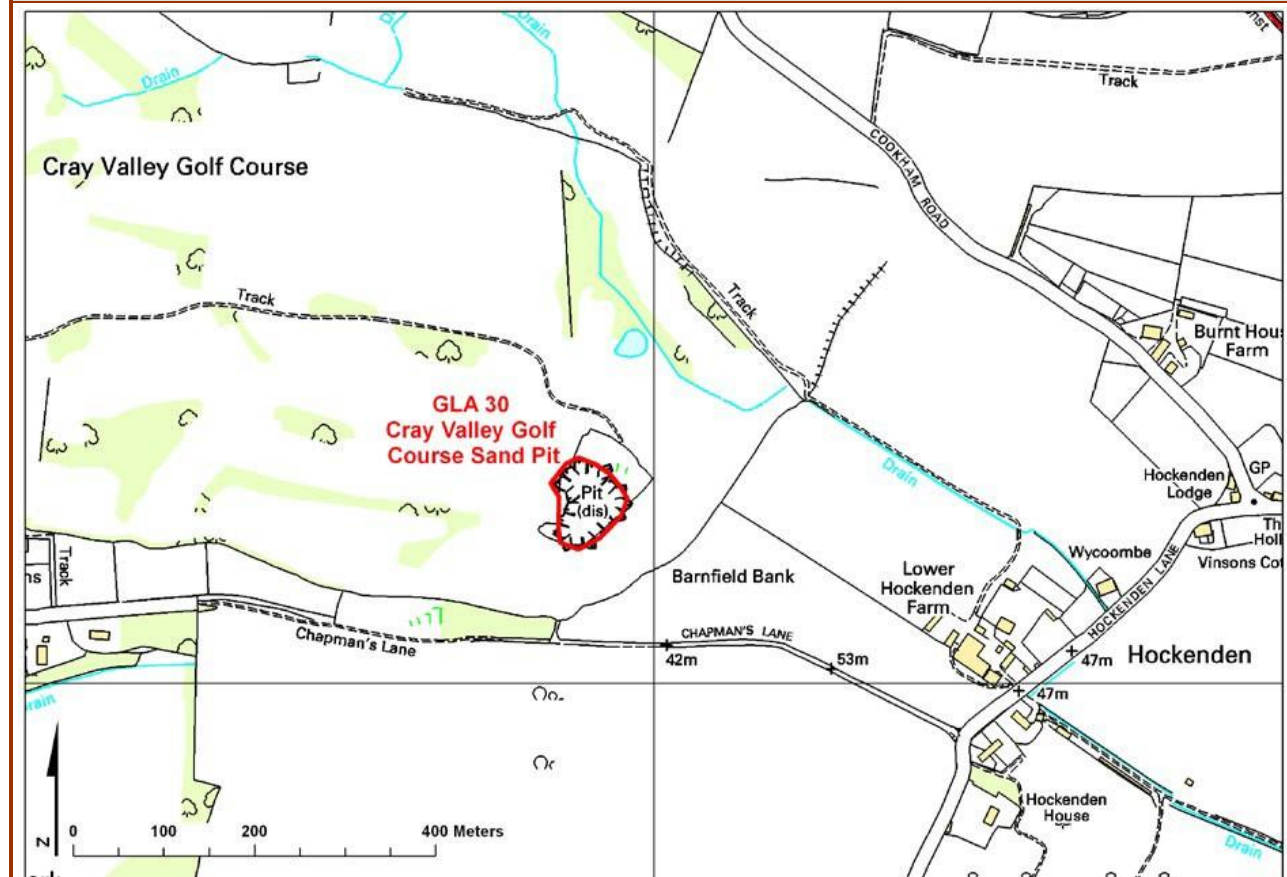


GLA 30 Cray Valley Golf Course Sand Pit

Grid Reference: TQ 489 690	Site Type: Former quarry works
Site Area (hectares): 0.57	Current use: Golf Course
Site ownership: Cray Valley Golf Club	Borough: London Borough of Bromley
Field surveyor: South London RIGS Group Latest visit: Steve Tracey, Diana Clements, Laurie Baker	Date: Summer 2008 Date: December 2019
Current geological designation: RIGS	Other designation: Borough Grade I SINC (Hockenden Sand Pit)

Site Map OS Topography © Crown Copyright



Stratigraphy and Rock Types

Time Unit: Paleocene	Rock Unit: Thanet Formation
Rock Type: Sand	Details: fine-grained sand, iron-stained (from the decay of glauconite)

Site Description

Clean large vertical exposures of Thanet Formation in disused sand pit. They have been left after previous mineral extraction stopped (for the construction of A20). The exposures are situated towards the eastern end of Cray Valley Golf Course. Approximately 64 sand martin holes are present in the north-west facing cliff – the only known breeding colony of sand martins within the Borough of Bromley, and one of the largest in London. Since 2012, the faces have become somewhat degraded but are still accessible despite the pit being used as a dump for green waste.

Assessment of Site Value

Geodiversity topic: Lithostratigraphy and sedimentology.

Access and Safety

Aspect	Description
Safety of access	Site is on the edge of a golf course. Access normally by golf buggy hired from the club or by walking straight ahead down the path from the car park, almost to the far end of the green but beware of golf balls..

Safety of exposure	The quarry is not on the course and is not exposed to golf ball hazard.	
Permission to visit	Access is by permission of the owners. Cray Valley Golf Club – telephone secretary on 016898 39677. Management at the course are helpful and permit controlled access.	
Current condition	The exposed face is still visible although there has been some overgrowth and the pit is now used as a green waste dump.	
Current conflicting activities	Possibility of reuse as a sand quarry or change in golf course layout	
Restricting conditions	Private Golf Course	
Nature of exposure	Semi vertical face of disused sand pit Cliffs in disused sand pit	
Culture, Heritage & Economic		
Aspect	Description	Rating
Historic, archaeological & literary associations	None known but site is near a Victorian rubbish dump with period relics such as glass bottles.	1
Aesthetic landscape	Sand martin nesting colony.	5
History of Earth Sciences	No associations known, but site is a very rare clear exposure of Thanet Sand. No other site of this importance is known to exist in the South London area.	5
Economic geology	Sand from this pit was used in the construction of the A20 motorway.	3
GeoScientific Merit		
Geomorphology	None.	0
Sedimentology	The sand was deposited in a coastal environment. The yellowish sand shows some evidence of weathering. No clay or silt deposits exist in the exposure. Evidence of podsoil formation is confined to the top 100mm of the formation. No detailed analysis of the sand is currently available. Sand is well sorted.	4
Palaeontology	No macrofossils are evident in the formation.	0
Igneous/mineral/ Metamorphic Geology	None.	0
Structural Geology	None.	0
Lithostratigraphy	Thanet Formation.	5
Potential use	Research, school and higher education as well as its interest as a sand martin colony.	
Fragility	Natural overgrowth, potential as sand source and exposed to changes in the course layout	
Current Site Value		
Community	Available to the community under careful control.	4
Education		5
Geodiversity value		
RIGS: The best Thanet sand exposure in the area. The working quarry at Bourne Wood had ceased operating in 2019 and the face is in danger of disappearing under landfill. The exposure at the Klinger site (GLA 41) has been developed and the face is hidden and so that site has been deleted leaving the Cray Valley Golf Course sand pit as possibly the best Thanet sand exposure in the area in the near future.		5-6

GLA 30 Cray Valley Golf Course Sand Pit



Quarry Face with Sand Martin burrows,



Face in December 2019. Photo: Laurie Baker