

<b>GLA 59 Pole Hill</b>	
Grid Reference: TQ 3835 9485	Site Type: Natural hillock within Epping Forest
Site Area (hectares): 7.02	Current use: Recreational Land
Site ownership: City of London Corporation	Borough: London Borough of Waltham Forest
Field surveyor: Diana Clements, Peter Collins Revisited: Ruth Siddall	Date: June 2011 Date: 2017
Current geological designation: LIGS	Other designation: part of Epping Forest SAC
<b>Site Map</b> OS Topography © Crown Copyright	
<b>Stratigraphy and Rock Types</b>	
Time Unit: Eocene	Rock Unit: Claygate Member, London Clay Formation, Thames Group
Rock Type: Sand silt and clay	Details: Interbedded 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.
<b>Site Description</b>	
<p>The site is a natural hillock of London Clay Formation capped by Claygate Member. There was formerly (mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century until 1930) a large brick pit situated on the south side of the site; the Claygate Member was much favoured by brick makers. It is now a westerly lobe of Epping Forest and is publicly accessible. Although not the highest point of Epping Forest, at 91m it affords fine views over the Lea Valley and the City of London. It lies on the Greenwich Meridian that is marked by an obelisk (erected in 1824). Claygate Member exposed at the top due to erosion by walkers and run off.</p>	
<b>Assessment of Site Value</b>	
<b>Geodiversity topic:</b> Lithostratigraphy; sedimentology; geomorphology	
<b>Access and Safety</b>	
Aspect	Description
Safety of access	accessed by several footpaths and is close to the London Loop.
Safety of exposure	The site is well cared for by the City of London Corporation
Permission to visit	Open access.

Current condition	The top of the site is open but the views towards Greenwich along the meridian are obscured by trees growing in the area that was probably a brickfield in former times. It would be marvellous to re-open this vista	
Current conflicting activities	None	
Restricting conditions	Most of the hillock is covered by vegetation (grass or trees)	
Nature of exposure	The viewing area is denuded of grass allowing a glimpse of the underlying Claygate Member. This can be slippery when wet. In the woods just to the northwest small dips indicate minor digging of the Claygate Member	
<b>Culture, Heritage &amp; Economic</b>		
<b>Aspect</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Rating</b>
Historic, archaeological & literary associations	More research required into old maps for exact position of brick pit. Meridian passes through top of the hill and an obelisk has been erected in 1824. Included in Epping Forest Guides e.g. Hoy, 2010	8
Aesthetic landscape	Footpaths through woods and in open ground used by local community.	9
History of Earth Sciences	PGA visit 1948. Potentially more information on the brickpits locally and the surface processes that have left the Epping Forest Ridge between the valleys of the Lea and Roding	3
Economic geology	Brick pit worked from mid-19 <sup>th</sup> C to 1930 (probably the Claygate Member)	6
<b>GeoScientific Merit</b>		
Geomorphology	Westward lobe of the Epping Forest Ridge with fine views over the Lea Valley	4
Sedimentology	No details seen but silty nature of surface Claygate Member of the London Clay Formation is evident	2
Palaeontology	None recorded	
Igneous/mineral/ Metamorphic Geology	None.	0
Structural Geology		0
Lithostratigraphy	London Clay Formation capped by Claygate Member at the top of the hill	4
Potential use	education; on-site interpretation on the geological structure of the hillock and possibly the rest of Epping Forest to NE. Anglian ice sheet probably stopped just to the north at the lower-lying Yardly Hill where Lowestoft Till can be found. There is already a plaque about the Meridian; there is scope for information about the brick pits. Could be included in a geotrail, climbing up the 'staircase' of gravels through Epping Forest from Wanstead Flats to High Beech.	
Fragility	natural overgrowing	
<b>Current Site Value</b>		
Community	Valuable green space.	8
Education		8
<b>Geodiversity value</b>		
LIGS:	Small exposures of Claygate Member with good access for local community and a story of brickmaking. This site is considered to be a better 'London Clay hillock' than the former GLA 13, Friday Hill which it replaces as a LIGS	4



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View from Pole Hill 2011. Photo: Peter Collins