

LOCAL GEOLOGICAL SITES

BRENTWOOD DISTRICT



Great Warley: Holdens Wood Gravel Pits

Site location: along Warley Gap either side of entrance to Brentwood Leisure Centre.

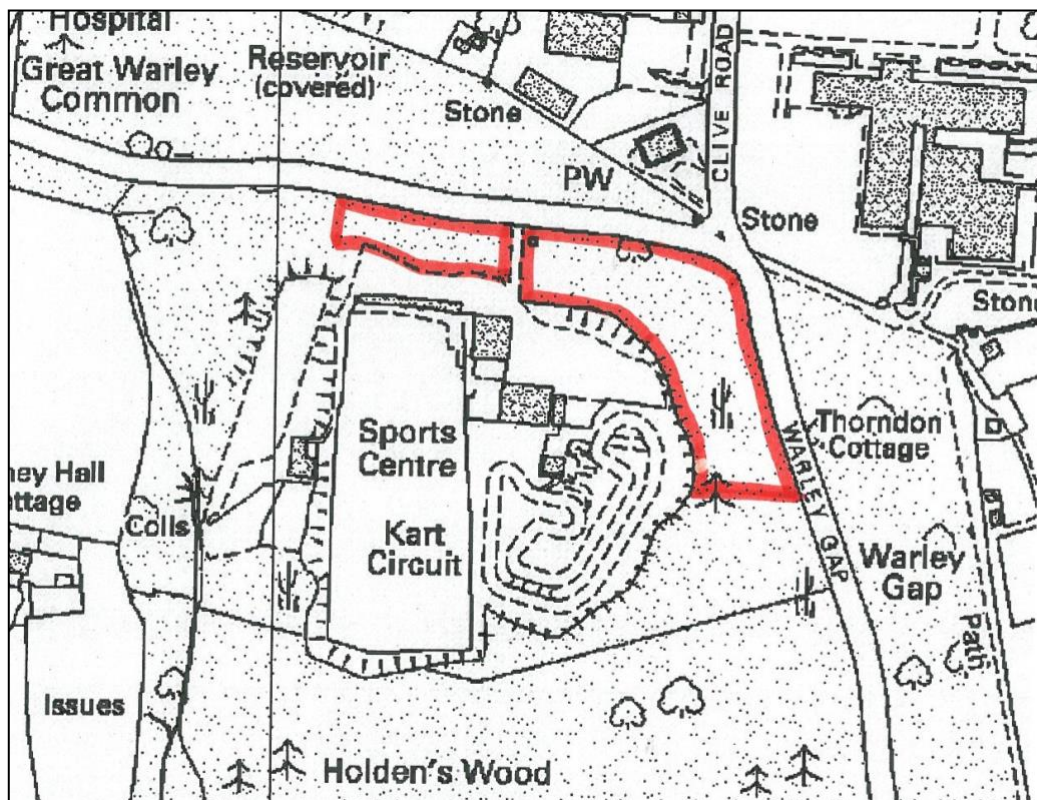
Grid Reference: TQ 591913

Status: on private land, but viewable from footpath.

Summary of the geological interest:

The disused pits in Holdens Wood are scientifically important because they are the 'type-site' for the Warley Gravel, now considered to be part of the Stanmore Gravels, that were laid down by north-flowing tributaries to the ancestral Thames. The Gravels here are about 3 metres thick which was the average depth of the pits. The characteristic feature of the gravel is the presence of elongated, roughly cigar-shaped, flint pebbles of all sizes up to six inches or more in length. Under the gravel, the Bagshot Sand is visible in the stream section.

The pits are historically important having been studied for over a century. They were first visited by the Geologists' Association and the Essex Field Club in 1889 (Herries et al. 1889). They remain scientifically important as the origin of the gravels requires further investigation.



Site Assessment. Local Geological Sites (LoGS) in Essex are assessed using criteria based on DEFRA guidance. This site has been assessed and qualifies under these criteria. An assessment form is used which asks key questions under four value categories: scientific, educational, historical and aesthetic.



Warley Gravel at Holdens Wood



Bagshot Sand in stream section on the western boundary of Holdens Wood.