

LOCAL GEOLOGICAL SITES

BRENTWOOD DISTRICT



South Weald: Langtons Gravel Pit

Site location: Off Sandpit Lane, South Weald.

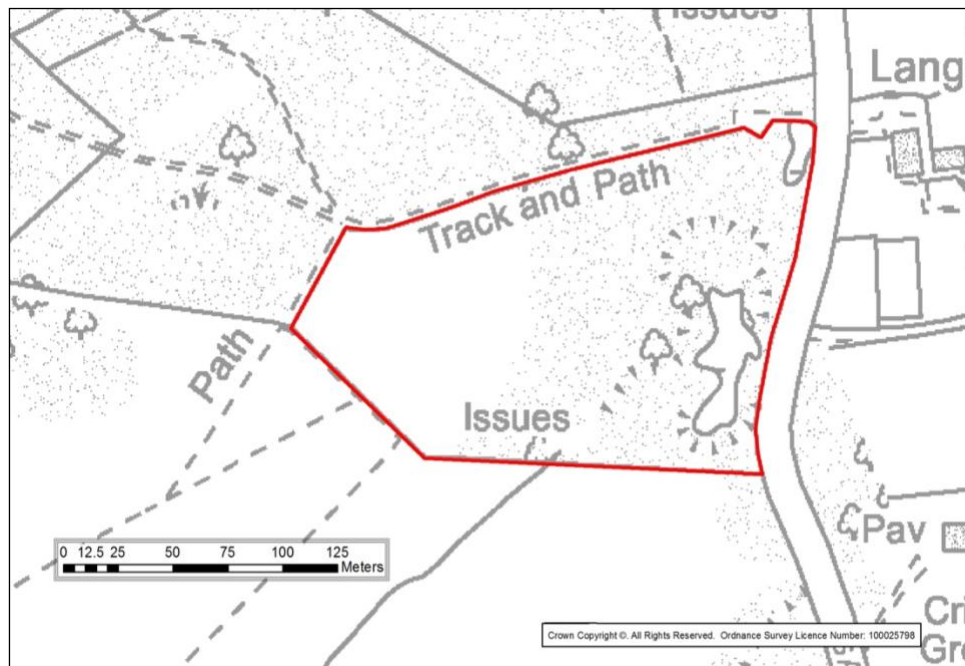
Grid Reference: TQ 5779 9476

Status: accessible with permission from Weald Park Rangers.

Summary of the geological interest:

Langtons is a disused gravel pit that is now a small fishing lake surrounded by woodland. It is an important geological site because it was one of the very few places where gravels assigned to the 'Bagshot Pebble Bed' of Palaeogene age were formerly exposed. On top of this distinctive pebble bed is a layer of sandier gravel that is different in character, but similar to gravel found at other high points, such as High Beach, Langdon Hills and Rayleigh. This is thought to be Stanmore Gravel. The pit is overgrown and neither the pebble bed nor the gravel is currently visible.

The site is an important one for further research to correlate both these gravels with others in Essex and the wider Thames basin to gain a better understanding of deposition in the later Palaeogene and in the early Pleistocene periods.



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.