

# LOCAL GEOLOGICAL SITES

## BRAINTREE DISTRICT



### BraG27 Alphamstone Gravel Pits

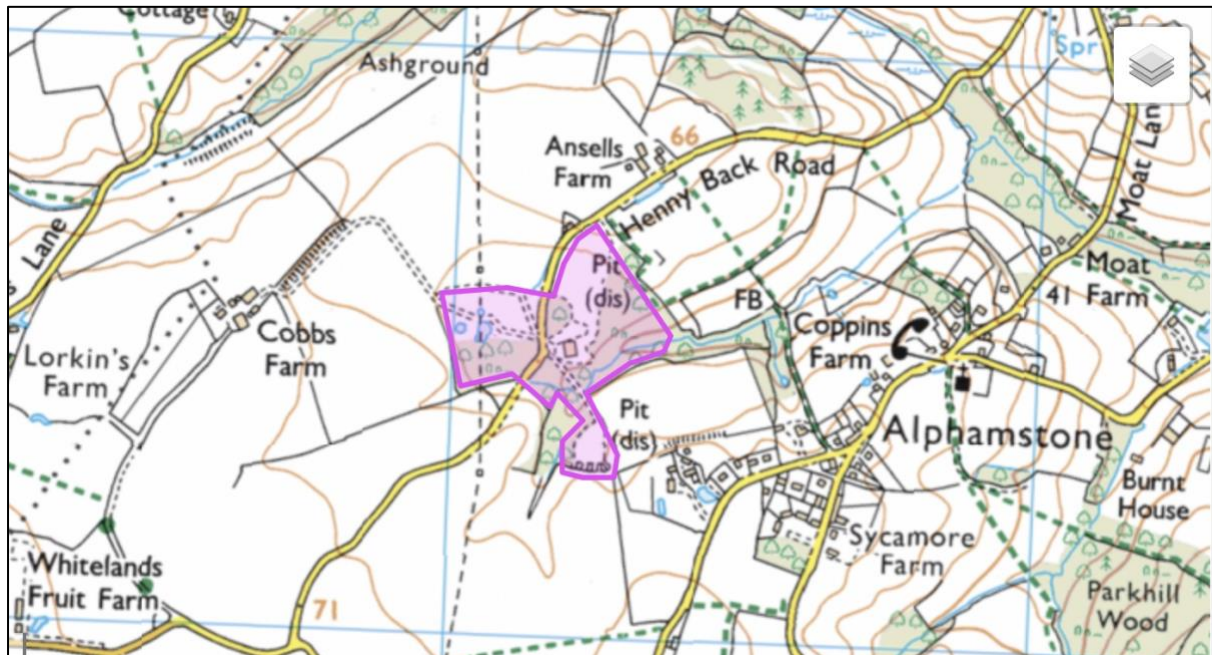
**Site location:** Disused pits west of the village of Alphamstone

**Grid Reference:** TL 872 355

**Status:** publicly accessible

**Summary of the geological interest:**

Disused pits west of the village formerly showed 6 metres of Thames gravel (Bures Gravel) and 6 metres of chalky boulder clay. The gravel has an abundance of far-travelled exotic pebbles.



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

**Scientific interest and site importance:**

These pits are important because it was here that identification of pebbles possibly originating in North Wales helped geologists piece together the evidence that the Kesgrave Sands and Gravels was laid down by the River Thames and that this river at that time had its headwaters in Snowdonia. The gravel also has an abundance of quartzite (bunter) cobbles from the West Midlands.

In 1975 a fine section of Kesgrave Gravel with overlying boulder clay (with a sharp planar base) was seen at TL 8700 3588.



*Photos by Derek Potts November 2023*



*Alphamstone Gravel Pits - at entrance to wood, looking south at grid ref TL873854, Nov 2023*



*Alphamstone Gravel Pits - gravelly soil in wood at grid ref TL873854, Nov 2023*



*Alphamstone Gravel Pits - in wooded old pit area, looking southwest at grid ref TL873355, Nov 2023*



*Alphamstone Gravel Pits - looking north towards site of pits from grid ref TL873354, Nov 2023*