

LOCAL GEOLOGICAL SITES

CHELMSFORD DISTRICT



ChG8 Russell Green Gravel Pit, Boreham

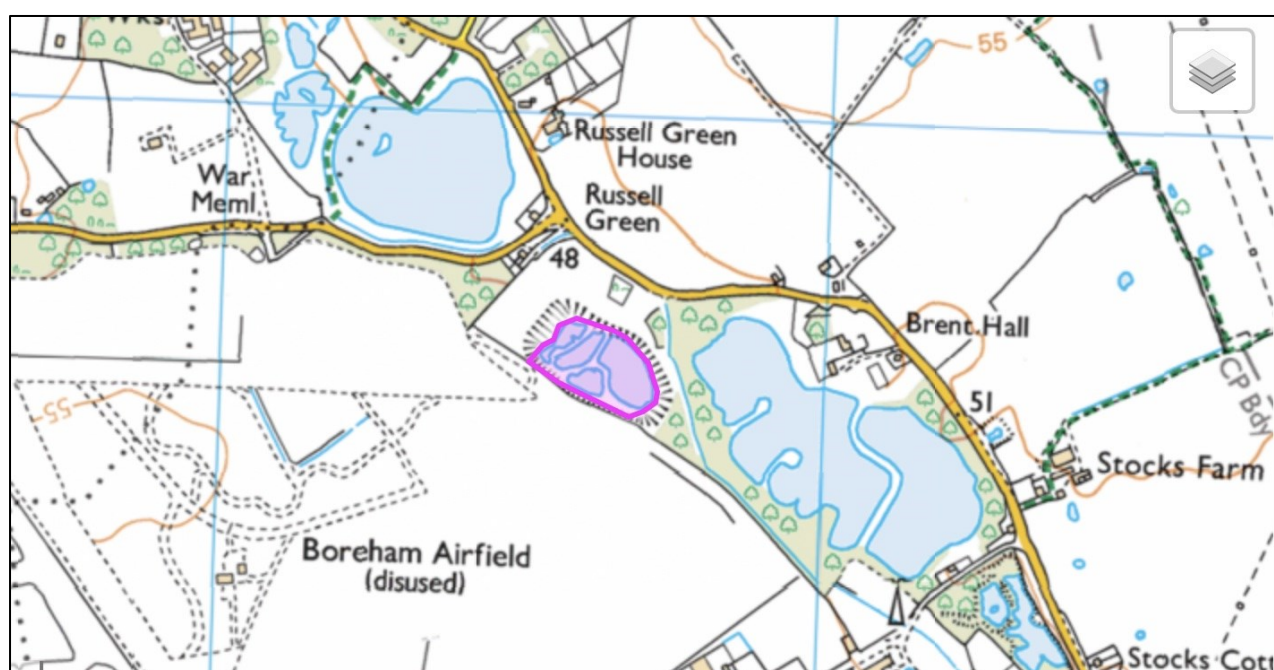
Site location: Off Waltham Road south of the junction with Cranham Road

Grid Reference: TL 746125

Status: On private land.

Summary of the geological interest:

Former gravel quarry providing exposures of Kesgrave Sands and Gravels. There is currently a fine vertical cliff of gravel on the west side of the lake, visible from the road. The site is privately owned with no public access.



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.

Scientific interest and site importance

The Kesgrave Sands and Gravels (Kesgrave Formation) were laid down during the early Ice Age by the River Thames when it flowed through Essex and Suffolk and out across what is now the southern North Sea to become a tributary of the Rhine. Here the gravels represent the southernmost course of the Thames before it was blocked by the Anglian ice sheet and subsequently diverted southwards towards its present course.

These gravels are particularly valuable as aggregate as they contain little iron. They are called 'Essex White Ballast' in the trade.