

# LOCAL GEOLOGICAL SITES

## CHELMSFORD DISTRICT



### ChG9 Sandon Gravel Pit

**Site location:** On the eastern side of the A12, south-east of Sandon village.

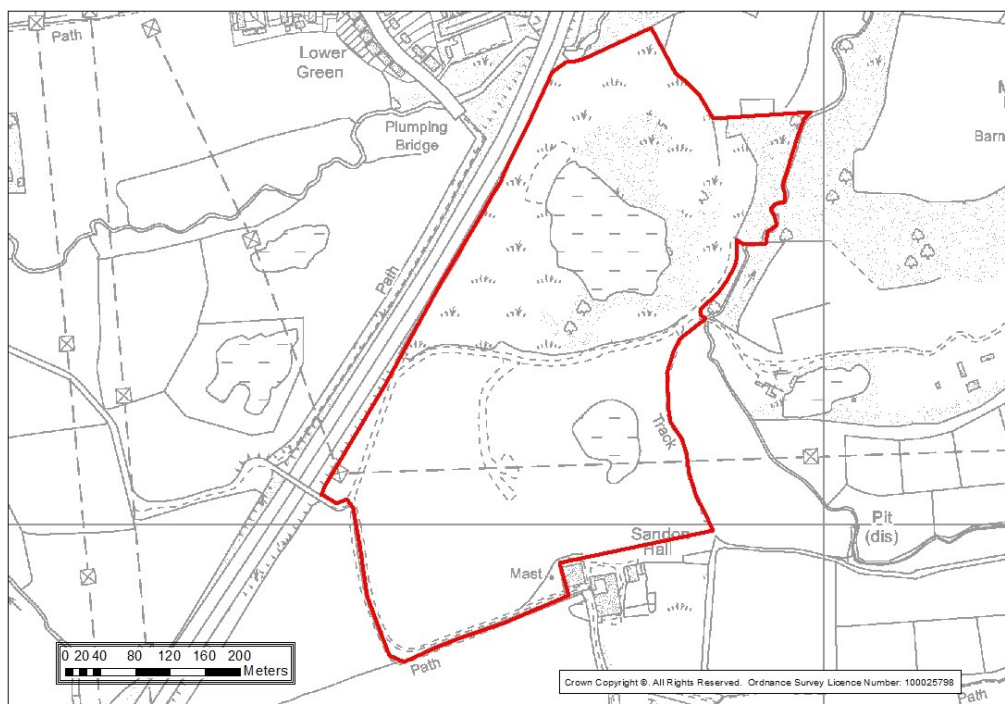
**Grid Reference:** TL 747 043

**Status:** On private land.

**Summary of the geological interest:**

The disused Sandon gravel pit has reasonably good exposures in Kesgrave Sands and Gravels. Much of the pit has not been restored and therefore the quarry slopes and edges are largely as they were when quarrying ceased. This makes the site important for geology as there are several small exposures of gravel, for example on the southern lake edge.

The Kesgrave Sands and Gravels were laid down during the early Ice Age by the River Thames when it flowed through mid-Essex and Suffolk and out across what is now the southern North Sea to become a tributary of the Rhine. The gravel is mostly flint but also contains 'exotic' pebbles of rocks from far upstream, some of which are ignimbrite (a volcanic rock) from North Wales.



**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 exposures of sand and gravel at Sandon Pit are typical of the Kesgrave Sands and Gravels. However, disused gravel pits such as this are rare nowadays; most having been restored with no geological exposures remaining. There may also be the opportunity, with the permission of the landowner, to create a significant permanent exposure of Thames gravel which would be of educational and scientific interest.

Sandon Pit is also a Local Wildlife Site.

Bristow (1985) states that up to 10 metres of cross-bedded sand and gravel was formerly exposed at Sandon Pit.

### ***References***

BRISTOW, C.R. 1985. **Geology of the country around Chelmsford**. Geological Survey Memoir. British Geological Survey. HMSO. Page 57.



Sandon Pit. *Photo: G.Lucy*