

LOCAL GEOLOGICAL SITES

MALDON DISTRICT



MaG4 Jubilee Recreation Ground, Great Totham

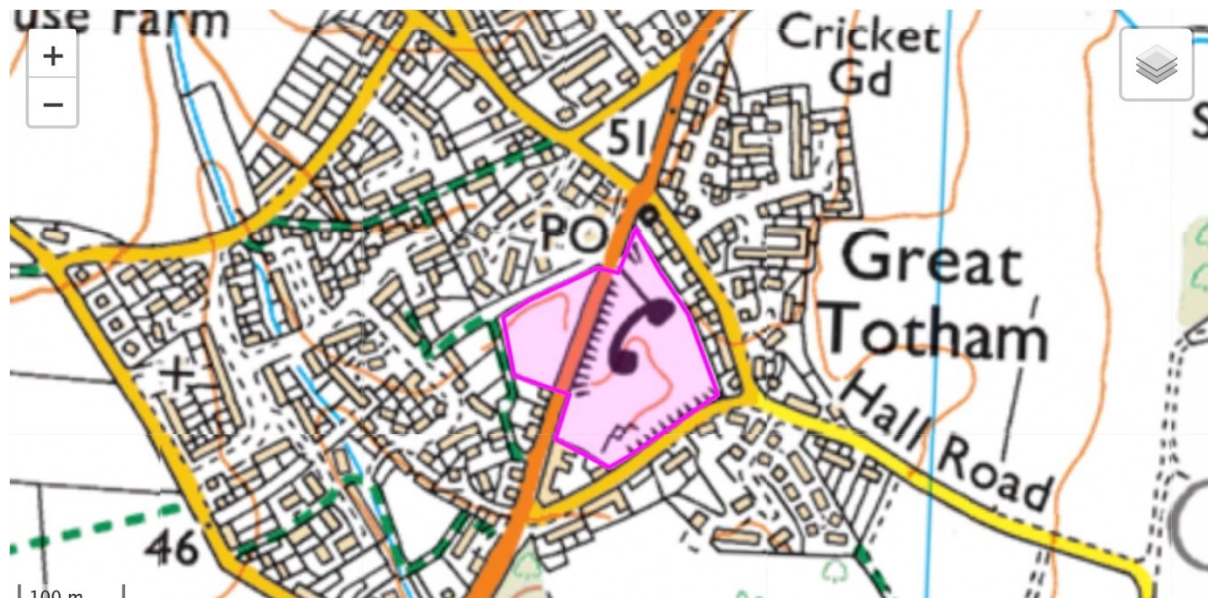
Site location: either side of Maldon Road, Great Totham

Grid Reference: TL 856 116 to TL 858 115

Status: Open at all times

Summary of the geological interest:

Former gravel pits adjacent to the Maldon to Tiptree Road in Great Totham, now in use as a recreation ground. Surrounding the ground are steeply wooded banks of glacial outwash gravels. It is a site of great educational value because of its accessibility. Pebbles from the gravel can still be collected at the base of the slopes, especially in the pit to the west of Maldon Road which is in use for cycle scrambling.



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 gravels were laid down about 450,000 years as outwash from a glacier that was halted by the high ground of Wickham Bishops, Braxted and Tiptree. As the ice decayed, meltwater flowed down the backslope of the high ground. The gravels were mostly reworked from, and therefore similar, to those deposited by an early course of the Thames that crossed central Essex, but include some new types brought in by the glacier. This is an important site for learning about the Ice Age history of the area and vegetation clearance could provide a small section through the gravels.



Part of the eastern Jubilee Recreation Ground field, showing steep vegetated sides



Exposed gravel in the side of the western pit.

Photos: Jeff Seward, June 2023.