

LOCAL GEOLOGICAL SITES

COLCHESTER DISTRICT



CoG8 Wormingford Mere

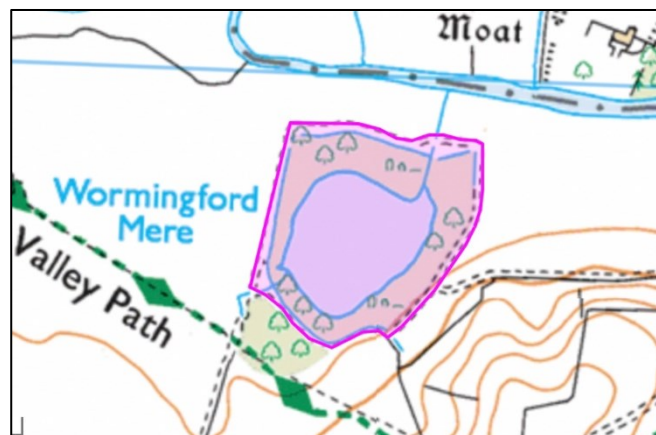
Site location: Area to the Northeast of Metlands

Grid Reference: TL 925327

Status: Private fishing lake

Summary of the geological interest:

Wormingford Mere is a deep, dark body of water, fed by springs and joined on the northern side to the River Stour through a small cut. It is thought to be a glacial solution feature or pingo left by the retreating ice sheet.



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

Staff and PhD students from Cambridge University's Department of Botany took a core of sediment from Wormingford Mere in 1981¹. It was cored and analyzed for pollen and spores, which give an estimate of 9000 years old at 47 feet. The bottom of the mud infill was not reached before the hole was lost, but such a thickness of mud is unusual in English lakes.

The analysis shows that forest vegetation then was very different to anything we have today, being dominated by hazel and birch, with small amounts of elm. From experiences elsewhere in East Anglia, a further 4,000 years of record is expected to be present, extending back to the end of the last ice age.

1. EHER: 9180. Unpublished document on Colchester Archaeological Group's website.



Wormingford Mere, private fishing lake. Photo: September 2022