

LOCAL GEOLOGICAL SITES

TENDRING DISTRICT



TeG2 Cockaynes Wood, Alresford

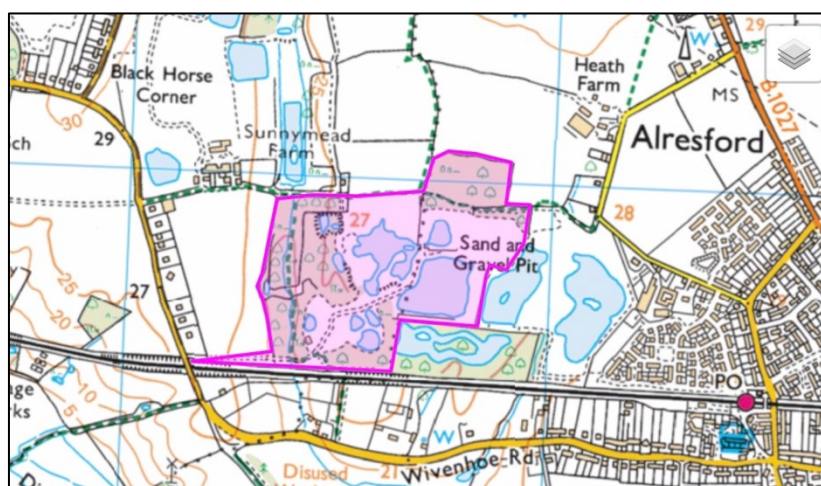
Site location: Part of the former Villa Quarry

Grid Reference: TM 056 218

Status: Publicly accessible nature reserve

Summary of the geological interest

Cockaynes Wood Nature Reserve includes part of the former Villa Quarry, a gravel pit which had exposures of Wivenhoe Gravel, part of the Kesgrave Sands and Gravels, laid down by the ancestral Thames.



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

Cockaynes Wood Nature Reserve includes part of the former Villa Quarry, a gravel pit which had exposures of Wivenhoe Gravel. Wivenhoe Gravel, part of the Kesgrave Sands and Gravels, was laid down by the Thames about 500,000 years ago when it flowed across this area before being diverted to its present course by ice during the Anglian glaciation (see separate site entry for Wivenhoe Gravel Pit). It was deposited just upstream of the point where the Thames joined a former course of the River Medway. It may be possible to conserve or create a permanent cliff of gravel in the former pit which would be an extremely useful teaching aid for students and for public interest and education.

Other information

The reserve is jointly managed by Essex Wildlife Trust and Cockaynes Wood Trust, who lease the site from Brett Aggregates.



*Formerly exposed gravels.
Photo Gerald Lucy*



*Section that could be excavated to reveal a section through
the gravels. Photo Brian Clough 2020*