

LOCAL GEOLOGICAL SITES

TENDRING DISTRICT



TeG3 Dakings Pit, Kirby le Soken

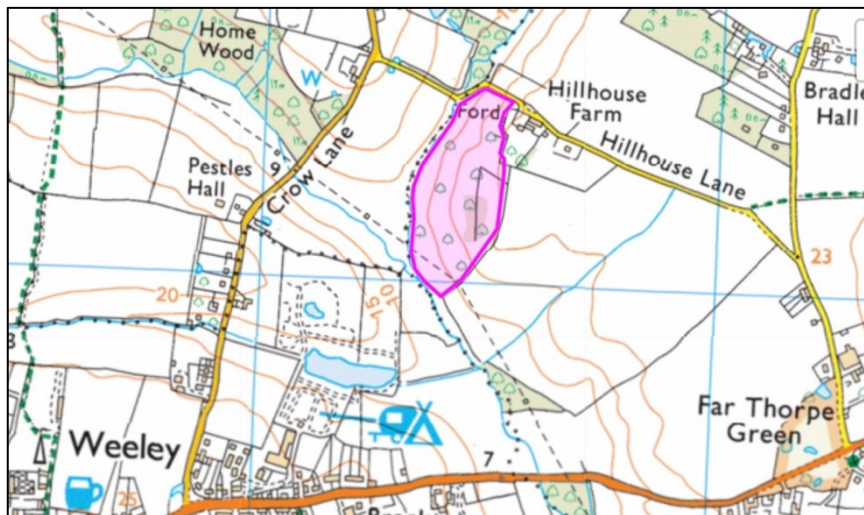
Site location: In the garden of Hillhouse Farm

Grid Reference: TM 154233

Status: On private land

Summary of the geological interest:

A rich assemblage of Palaeolithic artefacts has been recovered from this former pit from 1933 to 1970. Further excavations have been carried out recently (2024).



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

A rich assemblage of Palaeolithic artefacts has been recovered from this former pit in the garden of Hillhouse Farm. The deposits are mapped as Cooks Green Gravel (laid down by the Thames-Medway River 600,000 years ago) but it has been suggested that the gravel may be a post-Anglian deposit of the nearby Holland Brook.

In 1970 a 3 metre wide face was cleaned at the north-east end. The pit is historically important; archaeologists such as Leakey, Oakley, Warren and Wymer carried out research here from 1933 to 1970.

The 'pit' has now been more or less levelled and survives as a depression. Further excavations were undertaken with a digger to relocate Wymer's section and investigate further evidence of pre-Anglian artefacts in 2024.

References:

Wymer 1985 (p.261-263), Bridgland 1994 (p.363), Wymer 1999 (p.103).



Recent excavation pit 1
Photo: Ros Mercer, August 2024



Recent excavations pit 2 & pit 3.
Photo: Ros Mercer, August 2024