

GLA 63 Barn Hill

Grid Reference TQ 193 874

Site Type: hill within large public park

Site Area (hectares): 23.58

Current use: Recreational Land

Site ownership: London Borough of Brent

Borough: London Borough of Brent

Field surveyors: Diana Clements/Peter Collins

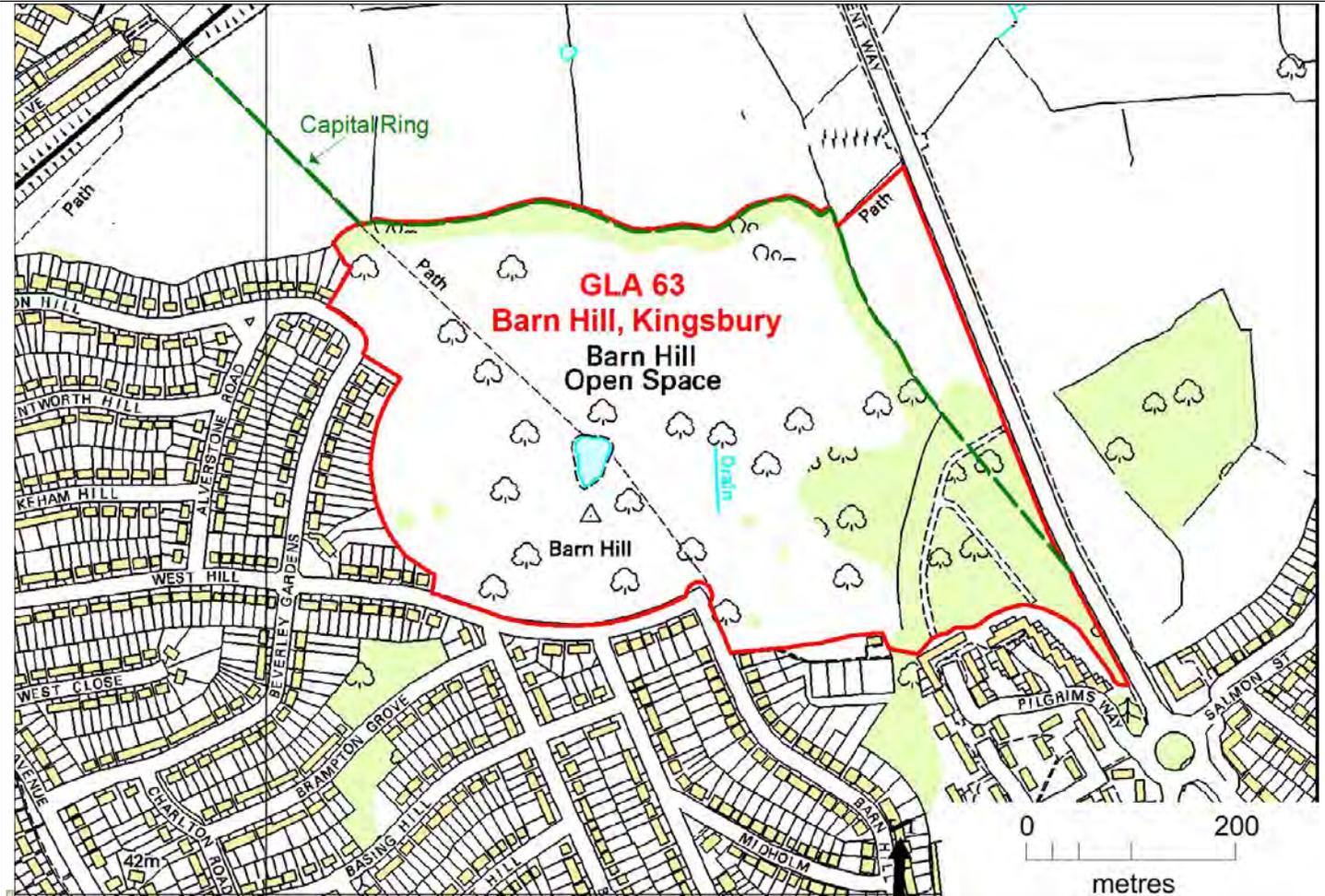
Date: June 2012

Current geological designations:

Other scientific:

Site Map

OS Topography © Crown Copyright



Stratigraphy and Rock Types

Time Unit: Quaternary	Rock unit: Dollis Hill Gravel Member Sudbury Formation, Kesgrave Catchment Subgroup
Rock Type:	Details: Gravel, sandy and clayey in part, with some laminated silty beds. Sand and gravel, locally with lenses of silt, clay or peat and organic material
Time Unit: Eocene	Rock Unit: London Clay Formation, Thames Group
Rock Type: Clay, silt, sand	Details: Fine, silty clay/ clayey silt, clay.

Site Description

London Clay is capped by Dollis Hill Gravel at the top of the hill (c. top 6 m). There are apparently no Claygate Beds present; the summit of the hill is 86m which is just beneath the Claygate Beds further east. However, the nearby Horsendon Hill (GLA 20, RIGS) does have Claygate Beds and the summit is 1 m less at 85m. Dollis Hill Gravel is exposed on the path at the top of the hill just before the pond is reached on the east side. As well as including this site for its Dollis Hill Gravel (also found at Horsendon Hill), it is thought to be the subject of a painting entitled *Harrow Hill Sand Pit* by Francis Jukes (1798). The painting depicts a quarry with a view behind to St. Mary's, Harrow on the Hill. Barn Hill seems to be the only candidate with the appropriate angle for the view. It would be Dollis Hill Gravel rather than sand that was being dug. The area is now a pond at the crest of the hill and trees now obscure the view although it can be seen from the open space to the north of the hill. Boards by the pond and the view with the painting and an explanation of the geology could provide a local interest. The Stanmore Gravel ridge beyond Harrow can also be seen. The painting belongs to the British Library.

Assessment of Site Value		
Geodiversity topic: lithostatigraphy, sedimentology; geomorphology.		
Access and Safety		
Aspect	Description	
Safety of access	Open access. Nearest public car park is to west of A4140 through Fryent Country Park. No amenities. Boards show footpath up to the summit of Barn Hill The path to the summit is through woods which may be slippery. The hill is reasonably steep.	
Safety of exposure	Dollis Hill Gravel can best be seen beside the path near the summit of the hill and around the perimeter of the pond where exposed.	
Permission to visit	Free open public access. Permission would be required to dig or erect boards.	
Current condition	Old quarry is now a pond, the view is now obscured by woods.	
Current conflicting activities	none	
Restricting conditions	Diversion from Capital Ring involves a steep climb to the top of the hill	
Nature of exposure	Mostly overgrown	
Culture, Heritage & Economic		
Aspect	Description	Rating
Historic, archaeological & literary associations	Old quarry identified by painting 1798 in British Library (link on next page)	8-9
Aesthetic landscape	Public open space with delightful pond and excellent view from north side	8-9
History of Earth Sciences		0
Economic geology	gravel extraction from pond area	5
GeoScientific Merit		
Geomorphology	Hill landscaped by Repton in 1792	4
Sedimentology	London clay and Dollis Hill Gravel but exposures only on path edges on steep slopes near the top of the hill. Former Quarry painted by Jukes, 1798	3
Palaeontology	None recorded	
Igneous/mineral/ Metamorphic Geology	none	
Structural Geology	Surprising that there are no Claygate Beds here when there is at Horsenden Hill nearby at similar elevation	
Lithostratigraphy	Dollis Hill clasts predominantly flint, noted for the high proportion of rounded flints; 7% Lower Greensand Chert.	4
Potential use	education; use can be made of the existing Geotrail	
Fragility	Natural overgrowing	
Current Site Value		
Community	Valuable woodland and green space.	6
Education	Potential for 2 boards, one by pond, the other near the bench on the north side of the hill to include the painting of former quarry and view to St. Mary's Harrow on the Hill. The east and north sides of the hill are on the Capital Ring so the view would require a small (but worthwhile) diversion.	6
Geodiversity value		
Recommended LIGS for local interest, particularly historical. Would require a small diversion from Capital Ring. Adjacent Horsenden Hill is already a RIGS for the same lithology but that includes Claygate Beds.		4

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An aquatint of Harrow Hill sand pit in 1798 by Frances Jukes can be found on www.bl.uk/onlinegallery/onlineex/kinggeorge/s/003ktop00000029u018e0000.html



View from near the top of Barn Hill, looking north to Harrow on the Hill, June 2012
Photo: Diana Clements



The pond (TQ 193 874) on top of Barn Hill

Photo: Laurie Baker