

management, which include the Green Flag Award, Millennium Marque and London in Bloom trophies. Part is a Local Nature Reserve and Site of Special Scientific Interest.

The Park, although heavily affected by quarrying and subsequently modified by landfill, was originally underlain by the Kempton Park Gravel and the Lakes are the former quarries. This is interesting geologically as *London's foundations* has not previously included the Kempton Park Gravel. It is one of the youngest of the Thames 'Staircase' of gravels - comprising the 'upper floodplain terrace' - and is located at the base of the staircase close to c.16m OD. Bridgland (2004) suggests that this gravel was deposited during the early to mid Devensian, between 122-70,000 years BP (MIS 5d-2). Gibbard (1985) suggests that the aggradation probably began at 45-44,000 BP and ended at 32-30,000 BP, i.e. the unit is of Middle Devensian age.

In the 20 years since the park opened the vegetation has flourished and exposures are sparse. The best were seen round the Fishing Lake (e.g. at TQ 076 722) where fishermen have kept the vegetation down by walking to the platforms created for them. There is a path close to the lake in parts. Other exposures were seen on a bund that separates the west side of the Fishing Lake from Clockhouse Lane. This was probably placed there when the quarry was in operation as is common practice. Temporary exposures such as burrows, excavations and an old upturned tree hollow provided views. None of the gravel seen showed any stratification and is probably all ex situ. The gravel seen is predominantly flint but some quartzite and quartz was observed. Cobble-size clasts were also commonly observed.

Gibbard, P.L. Pleistocene History of the Lower Thames Valley. Cambridge University Press 1985

Bridgland D.R. 2004

Assessment of Site Value

Geodiversity topic: Lithostratigraphy; sedimentology.

Access and Safety

Aspect	Description
Safety of access	Best access via Clockhouse Lane (by Information Centre) where there is also a car park (TQ 076 724). Public access Bus H46 to NW tip of the park. Open during daylight hours. Most paths suitable for pushing buggies/wheelchairs
Safety of exposure	Small exposures easily overgrown. Best seen around Fishing Lake where frequent access to lakeside
Permission to visit	Open Access. Permission would be required to dig
Current condition	Well maintained by Carillion Services for LB Hounslow. Snack bars at both car parks. Vegetation well-established after initial opening as public open space 20 years ago in 1995
Current conflicting activities	Fishermen are an asset! Possible wildlife conflicts
Restricting conditions	Digging would not normally be permitted
Nature of exposure	Ex gravel pits with very little exposure except rare glimpses around Fishing Lake and on bund separating area from Clockhouse Lane. Elsewhere landfill has been piled to make a pleasantly hilly topography including the 95m high Monument Hill with fine views

Culture, Heritage & Economic

Aspect	Description	Rating
Historic, archaeological & literary associations	Needs research	
Aesthetic landscape	Well used park, wonderful view point and several awards	9
History of Earth Sciences	In relation to Thames Terrace	4
Economic geology	Former Gravel extraction	8

GeoScientific Merit

Geomorphology	Thames Terrace related to OIS 5e c.45-44,000 to 32-30,000 100,000 years old.c. 16m. OD	4
Sedimentology	Predominantly flint (some quartzite and quartz) rounded cobble-size clasts of both seen.	2
Palaeontology	None described from Bedfont Lakes but OIS 5e is uniquely associated with Hippo bones	0
Igneous/mineral/ Metamorphic	None	0

Geology		
Structural Geology		0
Lithostratigraphy	Kempton Park Gravel (First GLA site recorded).	4
Potential use	Educational with school groups / families visiting the Information Centre	
Fragility	Overgrown by moss or vegetation	

Current Site Value

Community	If the geological designation could be included in the management plan this could lead to inclusion in some outreach.	8
Education	Aspects of the gravel could be included in some of the educational projects already on offer by showing small exposure of gravel on walks and discussing what the clasts are made of and the environment of deposition and subsequent extraction and landscaping.	6

Geodiversity value

Potential LIGS: Worthy of LIGS status as Kempton Park Gravel is not yet represented in <i>London's Foundations</i> . Although exposure is poor there is enough around lake edge to see the nature of the gravel.	4
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GLA 68 Bedfont Lakes
Photos: Diana Clements, June 2015



note cobbles c.10-15 cm