

**GLA 63 Barn Hill, LIGS**

London Borough of Brent, TQ193 874  
Ownership: London Borough of Brent

Barn Hill is chosen for a Locally Important Geological Site because the London Clay is capped by Dollis Hill Gravel at the top of the hill (c. top 6m). 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 Horsenden 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 Horsenden Hill), it is thought to be the subject of a painting by Francis Jukes, entitled Harrow Hill Sand Pit (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 local interest. The Stanmore Gravel ridge beyond Harrow can also be seen. The painting belongs to the British Library.

**Access**

Open access. Nearest public car park is to west of A4140 through Fryent Country Park. Section 10 of the Capital Ring goes across Barn Hill (see: [Section 10 of 15: South Kenton to Hendon Park \(innerlondonramblers.org.uk\)](http://innerlondonramblers.org.uk)). 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.

An aquatint of Harrow Hill sand pit in 1798 by Frances Jukes can be found on <https://tinyurl.com/9mfutzx>



**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, August 2014

Site Map

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