

GLA 69 Wanstead Flats, LIGS

London Borough of Redbridge, TQ 405 865
Ownership: City of London Corporation

The open flat ground of Wanstead Flats is formed by the terrace of the Hackney Gravel which overlies the London Clay. There are exposures all around the edges of Alexandra Lake but they are mostly ex-situ. The pond was created as an ornamental pond between 1882 and 1911 from an existing small quarry 'brick pit'. The gravel was piled up around the perimeters and to create 2 islands. The exposure near the car park at TQ 414 864 may be in situ. The Hackney Gravel is predominantly flint gravel within topographical range base 6-15m, top 16-18m above floodplain of River Lea.

At the northwest tip of Wanstead Flats, in the area around Bush Wood the older Lynch Hill Gravel replaces the Hackney Gravel and beyond that, the London Clay lies at the surface. As the name implies, the whole area is extremely flat and although there is a gentle increase in height OD from < 15 m round Alexandra Lake to 20 m at the southern extremity of Bush Wood and 25 m in the middle of the wood, it is very difficult to find any clues as to where these junctions lie. The Thames Terraces in this area do not display the obvious steps in the topography noted elsewhere. This is possibly because the ground was artificially levelled to create sports facilities. Springs were only detected in the adjacent road names such as Leybourne and Leyspring Roads which align with the junction of the Lynch Hill Gravel and the London Clay as shown on the BGS map.

Access

Good access, public space, free parking, buses & tube nearby. Manor Park railway station approximately 5 mins walk to Alexandra Lake. Car Park for pond TQ 414 864. Slippery when wet, mostly unmade paths, flat area. Wanstead Flats is the start of the Epping Forest Centenary Walk.



Photos: Diana Clements, April 2015

Site Map

OS Topography © Crown Copyright

