

SGI 20 Fairlop Waters Country Park

London Borough of Redbridge,
Fairlop Waters Country Park, Forest Road Barkingside, Essex, IG6 3HN
Grid reference: TQ 4572 9072

Fairlop Waters Country Park is a landscaped area of former gravel pits, one of which is a boating lake. The park is situated on the Boyn Hill terrace, one of the oldest and highest of the Thames terraces. The gravel of the Boyn Hill/Orsett Heath terrace, known as Orsett Heath Gravel, was laid down by the Thames about 400,000 years ago (Marine Isotope Stage 11). As well as water sports the Country Park is now home to 2 golf courses and a boulder park. There is a nature trail but it gives no mention of its former use as a gravel pit. The Visitor Centre houses a bar and restaurant as well as other facilities.

The park is surrounded by restored, disused and active gravel workings. Those that are still operating are the only working quarries in this part of London (see GLA 37 Mark's Warren Farm Quarry Complex, quarrying gravel very slightly older known as the Black Park Gravel; GLA 49 Fairlop Water Quarry Complex quarrying the same gravels close by and GLA 47 South Hall Farm/Spring Farm Complex, closer to the Thames, still quarrying younger Taplow Gravel).

Access

Fairlop Waters is easily accessible from the A12. The Central Line to Fairlop and Barkingside stations are only a short walk from the complex.

Text based on GeoEssex/Essex Field Club with thanks



Fairlop waters in 2012. Photo: D. Clements

References:

Full details on the following websites: www.vision-rcl.org.uk/fairlop_home.html;
www2.redbridge.gov.uk/cms/leisure_and_libraries/leisure/parks_and_open_spaces/list_of_parks_and_open_spaces/fairlop_waters.aspx
London Geodiversity Partnership GLA 47: www.londongeopartnership.org.uk/londonguidesites.html