

GeoSuffolk
County Geodiversity Sites (CGS) Condition Monitoring Form



1. Site Information			
Site Name	Westleton Common pits		
Site Type	Geology	Grid Reference	TM 444684
Date of Visit	10.10.21	Local Authority	East Suffolk DC
Surveyor	C Markham, R Markham, H Mottram, P Brinkley	Landowner	Westleton Parish Council
1:50,000 BGS Sheet no.	191	1:25,000 OS Sheet no.	231
CGS designation	Scientific	✓	Educational
			✓
			Aesthetic
			✓
			Historical
			✓
Interest Features: Small exposures of 'Westleton Beds' sands and gravel (Norwich Crag Formation) within an area of old gravel pits on sparsely vegetated heathland. Closely interbedded sand and gravel (photo 3). Gravel consists of rounded, chattermarked flints up to 6cm diameter (photo 5). 'Westleton Beds' first described here with accounts by early pioneers of East Anglian Crags (Prestwich, Whittaker). Reference: H Mottram, 'The Norwich Crag geology of the country around Westleton' in A Celebration of Suffolk Geology, 2012, Ed. R Dixon.			
Previous management and dates			
GeoSuffolk site recording visit 22.08.09; site meeting between Westleton Common committee/residents and GeoSuffolk 17.07.10; Condition Monitoring 12.01.12; Management of the exposures with SCH AONB volunteers June 2015; Interpretive panel July 2019 (photo 1).			

2. Primary Factors			
Geology feature	Are the features exposed?	Yes	If No, can they practically be re-exposed?
	Are the features being affected by the following factors?		
	<i>Factor</i>	<i>Y/N</i>	<i>Comments</i>
	Vegetation	Y	Brambles and gorse on the talus can make access to the exposures difficult – see photos 2 and 3.
	Scree/Mass Movement	Y	Talus (vegetated) obscures much of the former quarry face – see photo 4.
	Flooding	n/a	
	Dumping/Landfill	N	
	Quarrying/Engineering Works	N	
	Development (housing/industrial)	n/a	
Others (please define) -	N		

3. Secondary Factors			
<i>Factors that do not directly affect the features but may need to be managed to maintain the site in desirable condition</i>			
	<i>Factor</i>	<i>Y/N</i>	<i>Comments</i>
	Are any of the following causing difficulties in accessing the site?		
	Physical obstacles	N	
	Permissions	N	
	Protected species/habitats	N	
	Other (please define)	N	
	Are any of the following in an undesirable condition?		
	Interpretation Boards	N	Panel in good condition.
	Benches/Fences/Gates	N	
	Earthworks	n/a	
	Other (please define)	N	
	Are there any other features of interest that should be considered?		

Biodiversity	Y	Heathland with rare invertebrates
Historic Environment	Y	Associated with early work on the 'Westleton Beds' by Joseph Prestwich.
Other (please define)	N	

Site Status – Geology		
Is the site in a desirable condition for use of all/some/none the features identified?	Yes	
	Status:	GOOD
If Yes - what management (if any) is required for the features to maintain a desirable condition: Recommend exposures be refreshed from time to time – as per photo 3.		
Is the management being undertaken/going to be undertaken/not going to be undertaken/not possible?		
Are there any secondary factors that need further management?	No	
Suggested management in order to enhance the site status.		

Photos



Photo 1 TM 44336850 Interpretive panel produced by GeoSuffolk in 2019.



Photo 2 TM 44486848 looking south towards an exposure of sand and gravel.



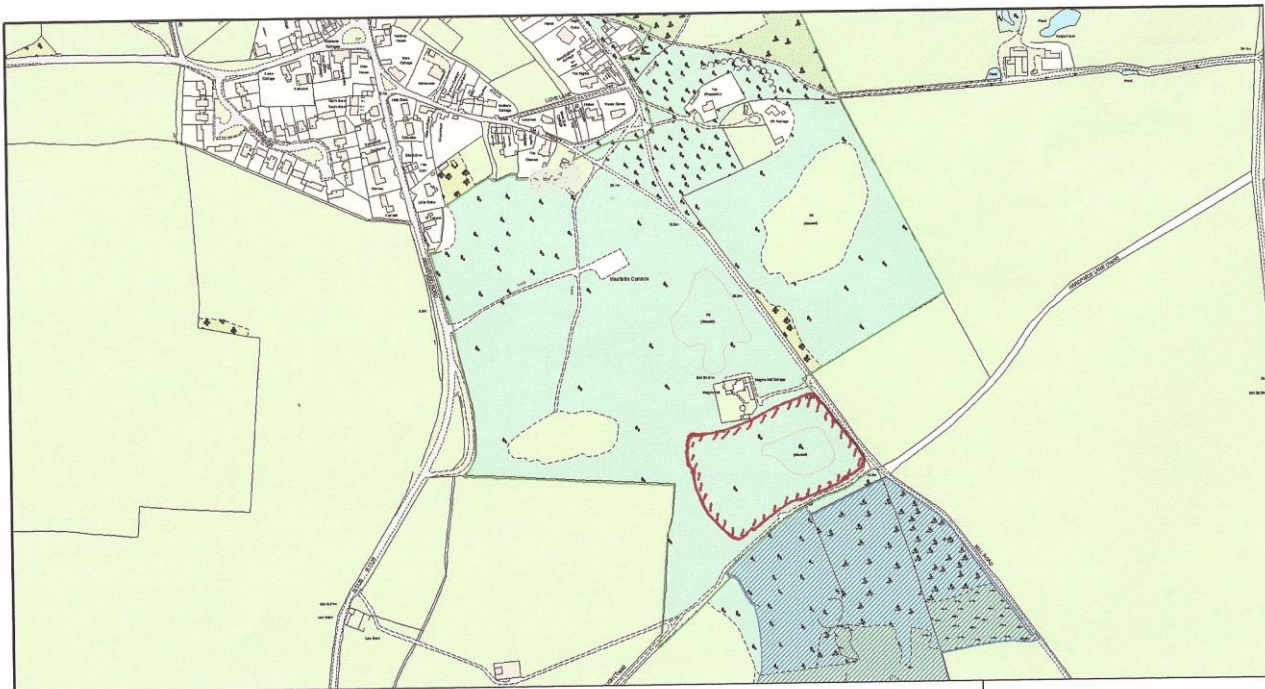
Photo 3 TM 44466845 looking south at the exposure in photo 2 - showing horizontally bedded sand and gravel. This is the face that was refreshed in 2015.



Photo 4 TM 44486848 looking north towards a small exposure of sand and gravel with prominent talus.



Photo 5 TM 44496849 Pebbles on the talus – note pen for scale



Westleton Common Pit
Westleton
TM444684

Scale 1:5000
▲
NORTH
Grid North
© Crown Copyright. All rights reserved.
Suffolk County Council Licence No. LA076864 2002

Map showing Westleton Common CGS in red.