

HOLYWELLS PARK RIGS IPSWICH



A variety of geodiversity features may be seen in this park. The higher part of the park is on well-drained sand and gravel, exposed in the main path to the Nacton Road gate. Steep slopes have developed on this sandy layer. Below this area, a number of **seepages and springs** attest to an underlying clay layer impermeable to water. The ground water has been used in a series of descending ponds and at the lowest part of the park a canal further drains the water.

A number of other geological features have been observed over the years. The sand and gravel is in part Pleistocene glacial outwash. Beneath this, Red Crag sand has occasionally yielded fossil molluscs and phosphatic nodules. The underlying 'London Clay' mainly belongs to the Harwich Formation and temporary excavations in the canal area have shown green and brown silty sand (part of the 'Reading Beds') of the Lambeth Group.

This is a splendid locality for an introduction to contrasting sand and clay areas, to slopes and spring line features and to the use of natural water for park landscaping.

The varied geology and associated ground water also support a variety of habitats, flora and fauna in this fine locality.

