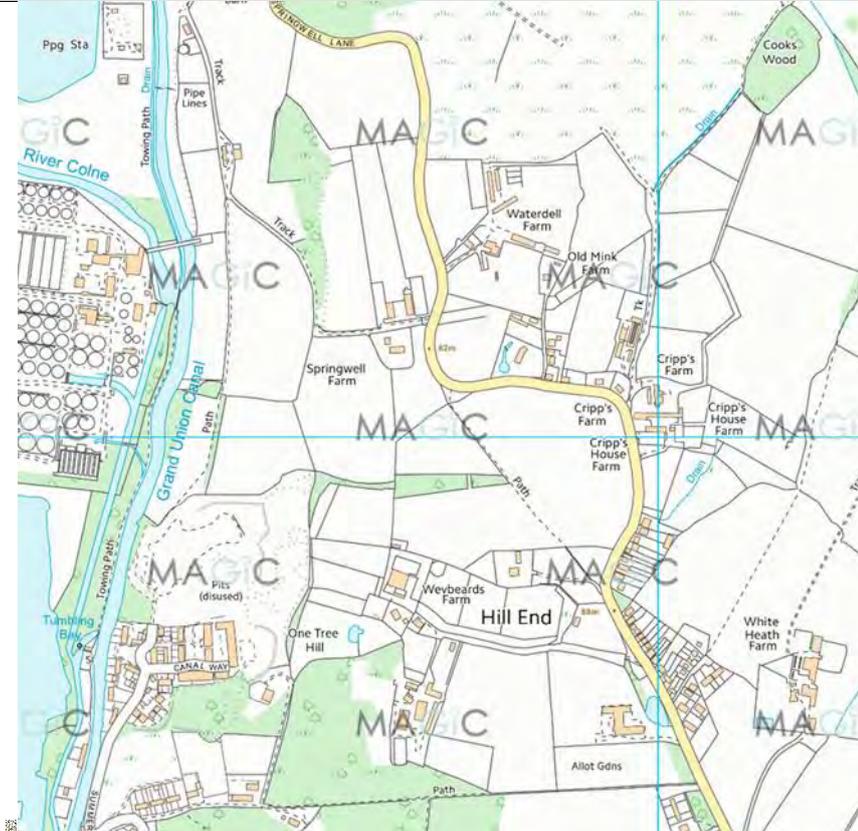


GLA 74 Springwell Farm

Grid Reference: TQ 0446 9223	Site Type: Small exposures in L and R banks on Hillingdon Trail
Site Area (hectares): < 1 hectare	Current use: Public footpath U8
Site ownership:	Borough: London Borough of Hillingdon
Field surveyors: Di Clements, Allan Wheeler	Date: June 2018
Current geological designations:	Other scientific:

Site Map OS Topography © Crown Copyright



Stratigraphy and Rock Types

Time Unit: Quaternary	Rock unit: Winter Hill Gravel (Anglian)
Rock Type:	Details: Gravel, variably clayey and sandy; some pebbles of quartz-arenite (origin – prob. Chester Formation of Sherwood Sandstone. Group, Triassic). The majority are flint.
Time Unit:	Rock Unit:
Rock Type:	Details:

Site Description

Small exposures of Anglian (but pre-Thames diversion*) Winter Hill Gravel on bank to L and R of path (which is cut into a slope, formerly the side of a gravel pit). The exposures are c. 75m from the apex of the bend just walked. The gravel pit was west of the path, on the eastern slopes of the Colne Valley and bordering the Grand Union Canal. The pit has been filled in but the upper part of the eastern side carrying the path remains but is covered in vegetation.

*Bridgland, D.R., (1994), Quaternary of the Thames, Geological Conservation Review Series, No. 7, Chapman and Hall, London.

Assessment of Site Value

Geodiversity topic: lithostratigraphy, mineralogy, geomorphology

Access and Safety

Aspect	Description
Safety of access	From south: Harefield village centre to Hill End Road. Roadside parking just before children's play equipment on L. Access by stretches of road and public footpath. Two sections lack footway.

Safety of exposure	Can be seen from track on vegetated banks	
Permission to visit	None required (public footpath) but would be if excavated	
Current condition	Only small patchy exposures on surface under shrubbery and other vegetation	
Current conflicting activities	None known	
Restricting conditions	Access to decent exposure	
Nature of exposure	Only small patchy exposures on surface under shrubbery and other vegetation.	
Culture, Heritage & Economic		
Aspect	Description	Rating
Historic, archaeological & literary associations	Former gravel pit worked at least until 1960s; closed by mid-1980s, detailed on old maps	5
Aesthetic landscape	View across Colne valley	7
History of Earth Sciences	No records located	
Economic geology	Former gravel pits shown on OS maps	3
GeoScientific Merit		
Geomorphology	Located on eastern slopes of the Colne Valley. Blankets top of valley side – no expression in landscape	1
Sedimentology	Winter Hill Gravel (exposures poor)	2-3
Palaeontology	None seen but literature not explored	0
Igneous/mineral/ Metamorphic Geology		
Structural Geology	Blankets top of valley side – no expression in landscape	
Lithostratigraphy	Winter Hill Gravel – pits on old maps at least until 1960. Ceased by 1989.	3-4
Potential use	As part of potential geotrail utilizing the Hillingdon Trail	
Fragility	Former gravel pit, backfilled; vegetated and degraded upper bank remaining on east side. Would benefit from troweling and vegetation clearance; lower bank exposures more difficult to reach. They are more visible in winter and early spring.	
Current Site Value		
Community	. On Hillingdon Trail	2
Education		
Geodiversity value		
Winter Hill Gravel is the last Thames gravel terrace aggradation before Anglian glaciation and resultant diversion of R. Thames (age of deposit early Anglian). This is the best location found in the small area where it exists within GLA and should be represented		3-4

GLA 74 Springwell Farm



Upper bank, taken December 2013. (Pen for scale: 140mm)



Looking uphill towards site from north (June 2018). Backfilled gravel pit at right. Exposures are near the top of the hill.



Pebbles from lower bank arranged for photo (June 2018). Top two are 'quartzite' (quartz-arenite) pebbles and lower two are flint; 130mm pen for scale.

Photos: Allan Wheeler