

GLA 75 Watt's Common

Grid Reference

TQ 0539 9147

Site Type: Small exposures and shallow pits

Site Area (hectares): < 1 hectare

Current use: Public wood

Site ownership:

Borough: London Borough of Hillingdon

Field surveyors: Di Clements, Allan Wheeler

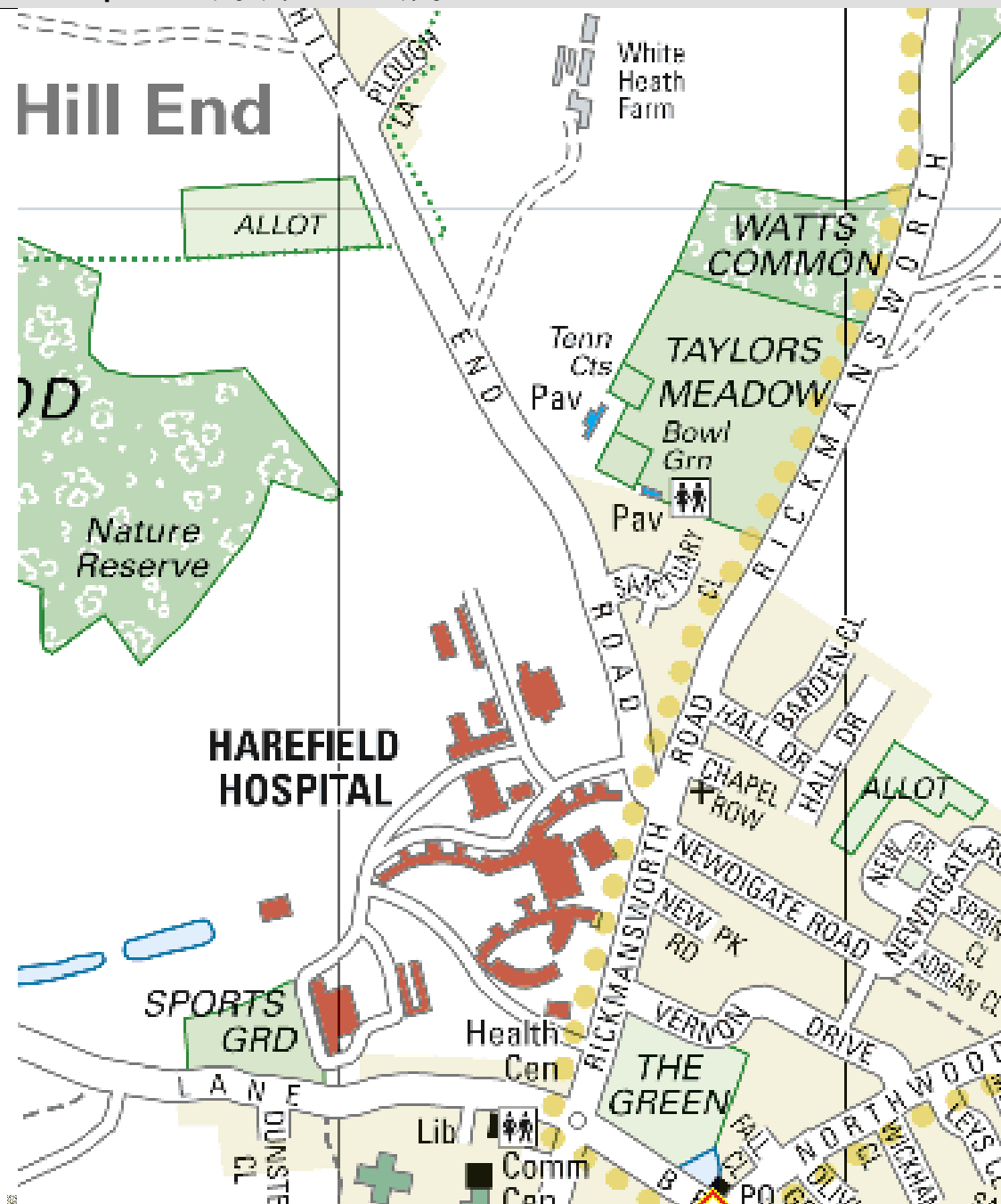
Date: June 2018

Current geological designations:

Other scientific:

Site Map

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Stratigraphy and Rock Types

Time Unit: Pleistocene pre-Anglian

Rock unit: Gerrards Cross Gravel, Sudbury Formation (Cromerian – Anglian)

Rock Type:

Details: Ancestral Thames terrace deposit; Sand and gravel, locally with lenses of silt, clay or peat and organic material. [Generic description].

Time Unit:

Rock Unit:

Rock Type:

Details:

Site Description		
Small surface exposures of Gerrards Cross Gravel (Pleistocene, pre-Anglian) in wood. Ancestral Thames terrace deposit. Shallow pits mainly in NW parts of wood. Banks can easily be scraped for more exposure. Standing water in a couple of pits in June implies that clays of the Lambeth Group are not far below the surface. A fallen tree provides the best exposure with a mixture of sand with silt/clay lenses and pockets of gravel.		
Assessment of Site Value		
Geodiversity topic: : lithostratigraphy, mineralogy, structural		
Access and Safety		
Aspect	Description	
Safety of access	Cross Rickmansworth Road (moderate traffic) & go through stymie gates opposite. Immediately turn R & follow path to kissing gate on to playing fields. Aim for point on far boundary (with woodland) 50m to R of far LH corner of field. Enter wood through gap in hedge. Nettle hazard within woodland in summer.	
Safety of exposure	Nettle hazard in summer (as above). Uneven ground, can be slippery when wet. Small amount of brick and concrete dumped in one area.	
Permission to visit	None	
Current condition	Condition of exposures in shallow pits would benefit from scraping.	
Current conflicting activities	None apparent	
Restricting conditions	Nettles made access more difficult in summer	
Nature of exposure	Exposures in sides of shallow pits	
Culture, Heritage & Economic		
Aspect	Description	Rating
Historic, archaeological & literary associations	Best site for Gerrards Cross Gravel found in the neighbourhood of Harefield - other sites to west outside GLA. Best visited in winter/early spring as nettles abound in the summer. General description of Gerrards Cross Gravel in literature including: Strange, P J, 1992. A new nomenclature for the River Terrace Deposits of North London. British Geological Survey Technical Report, WA/92/52. Gibbard, P L, 1985. Pleistocene history of the Middle Thames Valley. (London: Cambridge University Press.); Bridgland, D.R., (1994), Quaternary of the Thames, Geological Conservation Review Series, No. 7, Chapman and Hall, London.	5
Aesthetic landscape	Small woodland surrounded by fields	5
History of Earth Sciences	unknown	
Economic geology	Former small gravel pits	3
GeoScientific Merit		
Geomorphology	Outcrop area is flat	
Sedimentology	Mainly flint, with some pebbles of quartz-arenite and vein-quartz	2
Palaeontology	No evidence found	0
Igneous/mineral/ Metamorphic Geology		
Structural Geology	Part of Pre-Anglian Thames sequence. Shallow pits in wood are evidence of small-scale digging	2
Lithostratigraphy	Gerrards Cross Gravel	3-4
Potential use	Multiple small exposures (preferably one or two scraped) could be included on a trail.	
Fragility	Overgrowth. Access to exposures hampered by tall nettles in the summer but the exposures themselves are reasonably clear of vegetation.	
Current Site Value		
Community		
Education	Moderate	

Geodiversity value

Recommended LIGS owing to rarity of GCG in area even though exposures are poor.

3-4

GLA 75 Watt's Common photographs



Shallow pits



Gravel on rim of one of the pits (phone case 130mm long)



Fallen tree giving exposure of sand and pockets of gravel



Part of photo on the left showing lenses/streaks of grey silt or sand (camera case 130mm long)

Photos: Allan Wheeler on 7 February 2018