

GLA 61 Spring Park, Threehalfpenny Wood, Sparrows Den Playing Fields, RIGS

London Boroughs of Bromley and Croydon, TQ 381 649 (Spring Park)

Ownership:

- Spring Park – City of London Corporation
- Threehalfpenny Wood – London Borough of Croydon
- Sparrows Den Playing Fields – London Borough of Bromley

Spring Park Wood and Threehalfpenny Wood are adjacent sections of a south east facing scarp slope formed by Palaeocene strata overlying the Chalk. Paths in the highest part of Spring Park Wood, towards its northeast border, are dominated by Harwich Formation pebbles. The steepest part of the slope is formed of the clayey strata of the Lambeth Group. Thanks to many mole hills the less steep parts of the slope reveal the fine sand of the Thanet Formation.

Groundwater emerges as springs from the base of the Harwich Formation, flows as shallow streams over the Lambeth Group and then sinks into the Thanet Sand. In Spring Park many streams have been artificially joined to fill a pond just below the lower edge of the wood. In Threehalfpenny wood a more natural sink is still visible.

Sparrows Den and the lowest part of Spring Park are mainly on the flat valley bottom with gravelly alluvium. In exceptionally wet years (e.g. 2001, 2014) much of Sparrows Den is covered by a spectacular lake formed from springs in the Chalk on the south (Addington Road) side of the site. This is the bourne of the Ravensbourne and was much visited and studied in 1904 and 1916 by the Geologists' Association and others. Addington Road Pumping Station – a Thames Water Chalk borehole with galleries – is immediately to the south of the site.

Section 4 of the London Loop goes through the site

(see: [LL04-west-wickham-to-hamsey-green \(innerlondonramblers.org.uk\)](http://innerlondonramblers.org.uk)).

Access

Entrance to Spring Park from Addington Road is adjacent to the TfL bus stop "Addington Road Pumping Station" served by buses 314 and 353. Free parking is available.



Crest of steep slope



View downhill showing Harwich pebbles in foreground and springs on Lambeth Group in distance



**Sparrows Den lake on 15 February 2014.
Spring Park Wood can be seen on the horizon**

Photos: Paul Rainey

Site Map

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