

## GLA 12 Finsbury Gravel, Sadler's Wells

Grid Reference: TQ 3147 8281	Site Type: Natural exposure
Site Area (hectares): 0.23	Current use: Recreational land
Site ownership: London Borough of Islington	Borough: London Borough of Islington
Field surveyor: Joanna Brayson	Date: January 2008
Latest visit: Diana Clements	Date: September 2019
Current geological designation: LIGS	Other designation: Local SINC (Spa Green Garden)

### Site Map

OS Topography © Crown Copyright



### Stratigraphy and Rock Types

Time Unit: Pleistocene	Rock Unit: Finsbury Gravel Member, Maidenhead Formation, Thames Catchments Subgroup
Rock Type: Sand and gravel	Details: Sand and gravel, locally with lenses of silt, clay or peat.

### Site Description

Small park area with gravel in borders. The Finsbury Gravel may be related to a phase of deposition of the Lynch Hill Gravel close to the confluence of the rivers Lea and Thames. Site of Islington Spa, famous for chalybeate water from the gravels.


### Assessment of Site Value

**Geodiversity topic:** Sedimentology; Lithostratigraphy, water source.

### Access and Safety

Aspect	Description
Safety of access	In public park – footpaths.
Safety of exposure	Exposure adjacent to and level with paths.
Permission to visit	Open space – contact Islington Borough Greenspace division at <a href="mailto:greenspace@islington.gov.uk">greenspace@islington.gov.uk</a> or 020 7527 2000.
Current condition	Landscaped, probably disturbed.
Current conflicting activities	Landscaping.



Restricting conditions	None.	
Nature of exposure	Exposures in borders of park.	
<b>Culture, Heritage &amp; Economic</b>		
<b>Aspect</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Rating</b>
Historic, archaeological & literary associations	Spa Green is the site of the historic Islington Spa. It highlights importance of the gravels as a source of water for early development.	6
Aesthetic landscape	Park of valuable open space.	6
History of Earth Sciences	Evolution of local river systems. Influence of geology on development.	6
Economic geology	Water and associated tea gardens and spa	0
<b>GeoScientific Merit</b>		
Geomorphology	Position of gravels – reconstruct river systems. Thames terrace at 30m.	6
Sedimentology	Environment of deposition, provenance.	6
Palaeontology	None.	0
Igneous/mineral/ Metamorphic Geology	None.	0
Structural Geology	None.	0
Lithostratigraphy	Relationship between different terrace gravels.	6
Potential use	Research; school education; on-site interpretation.	
Fragility	Natural over-growing.	
<b>Current Site Value</b>		
Community	Local community pass through site every day. There is opportunity for interpretation board.	10
Education		4
<b>Geodiversity value</b>		
LIGS: Very small exposures in small park in urban area. The Finsbury Gravel is of very limited extent. It is an important part of Islington water story.		3
<b>GLA 12 Finsbury Gravel</b>		
		
Exposure of gravel in borders in Spa Green		