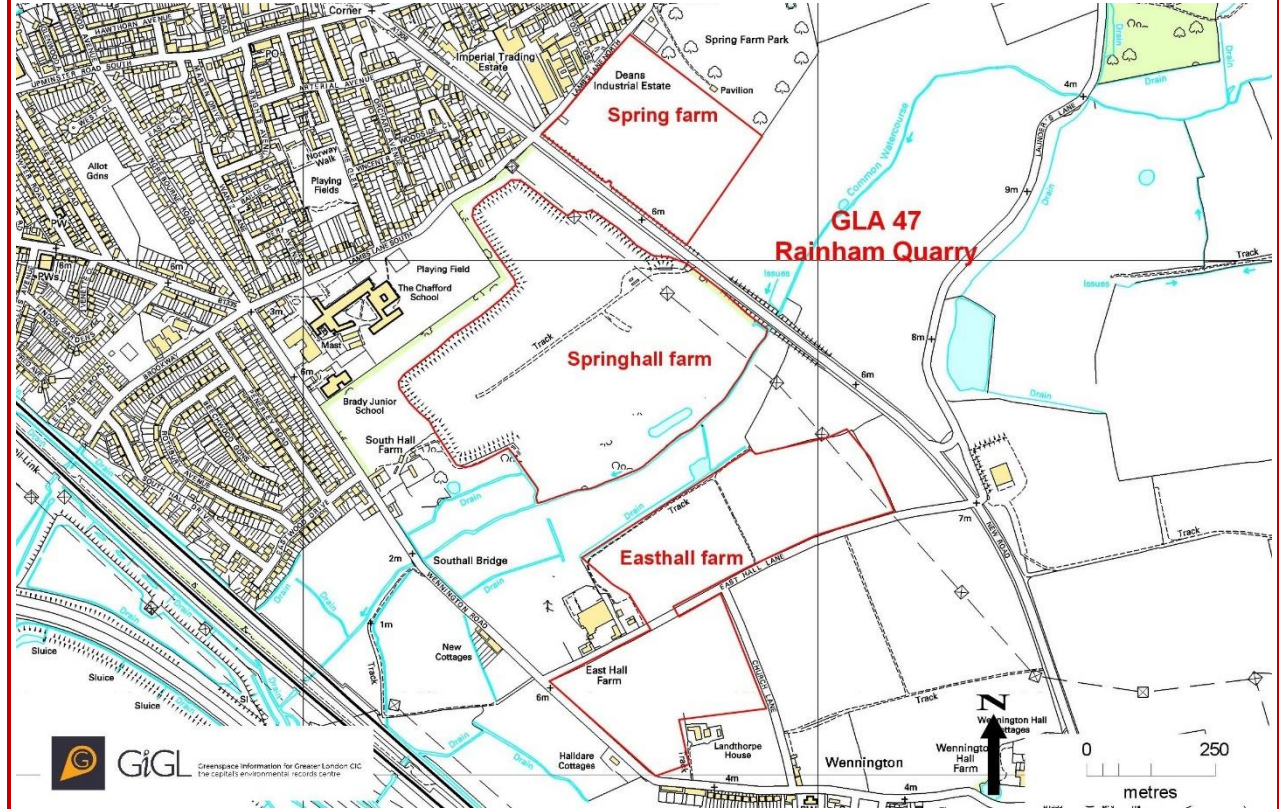


GLA 47 Rainham Quarry complex

Grid Reference Depot: TQ 543 827	Site Type: aggregate quarry site
Site Area (hectares): 50.86	Current use: processing/potential land fill
Site ownership: Brett Aggregates Ltd.	Borough: London Borough of Havering
Field surveyor: Peter Collins, Diana Clements and Bill George	Date: July 2011
Last visited: Diana Clements and Bill George	Date: 2019
Current geological designation: RIGS	Other designation: Borough Grade II SINC (Brett Havering Aggregates west0)

Site Map



Stratigraphy and Rock Types

Time Unit: Pleistocene	Rock Unit: Taplow Gravel Member, Maidenhead Formation
Rock Type: Sand and gravel	Details: Sand and pebbles (mostly flint), Bunter pebbles, vein quartz and Lower Greensand Chert all found plus one clast of tourmaline granite

Site Description


In 2019 excavations had moved on from Spring Farm to a new exposure at East Hall Farm. Processing was taking place adjacent to the offices in nearby Launderers Lane. A second quarry had recently opened adjacent, called Wennington. A large number of other former quarries in the area have been landfilled and returned to agricultural use. As this is the only area in east London still quarrying Taplow Gravel, it is hoped that future planning permissions in the area will designate a permanently exposed face for geoconservation purposes. Currently there is a requirement to restore to agricultural use.

Assessment of Site Value

Geodiversity topic: Lithostratigraphy; sedimentology.

Access and Safety

Aspect	Description
Safety of access	The quarries can only be visited when accompanied by a representative of the quarry owner.
Safety of exposure	Danger from machinery
Permission to visit	Brett Aggregates Ltd. Depot: Launderers Lane, RM13 9GJ

	Tel no: 01708 552138 (Site Manager Tom Shenton, 2019) Brett Aggregates is the trading name of Brett Aggregates Limited Reg No 316788, Brett House, Bysing Wood Road Faversham, Kent ME13 7UD. Registered office: 150 Aldersgate Street, London, EC1A4AB.	
Current condition	East Hall Farm site was operational in 2019 with three more years supply.	
Current conflicting activities	Landfill and land reclamation	
Restricting conditions	Imminent disappearance of this site; It will probably cease operation in three years.	
Nature of exposure	Man-made quarry for Taplow Gravel.	
Culture, Heritage & Economic		
Aspect	Description	Rating
Historic, archaeological & literary associations	The area has been quarried from at least between 1898 and 1921 but literature has not been researched.	2
Aesthetic landscape	Private land	0
History of Earth Sciences	Other gravel pits in East London have been important for Archaeological remains but none have been reported from this complex as far as could be ascertained.	2
Economic geology	Gravel extraction has been an important industry in east London but is rapidly disappearing	8
GeoScientific Merit		
Geomorphology	Flat river terrace cut by tributary stream close to the Thames. The Ingrebourne Valley Visitor Centre is close by	2
Sedimentology	Potential detailed description of the gravels possible.	6
Palaeontology	None known	0
Igneous/mineral/ Metamorphic Geology	None	0
Structural Geology	None	0
Lithostratigraphy	Opportunities for future research	6
Potential use	Research; (off-site education on Thames Terraces)	
Fragility	Landfill then restore to agriculture (to be lined with London Clay delivered from excavations elsewhere)	
Current Site Value		
Community		2
Education		6
Geodiversity value		
RIGS:	Although we would like to see an accessible face once extraction has ceased, the present planning application dictates total restoration. We would ask Havering to consider designating a face within the area for the Taplow Gravel as there are no other exposures in east London.	6
GLA 47 Rainham Quarry complex		
		<p>East Hall Farm. Photo: Bill George, 2019</p>