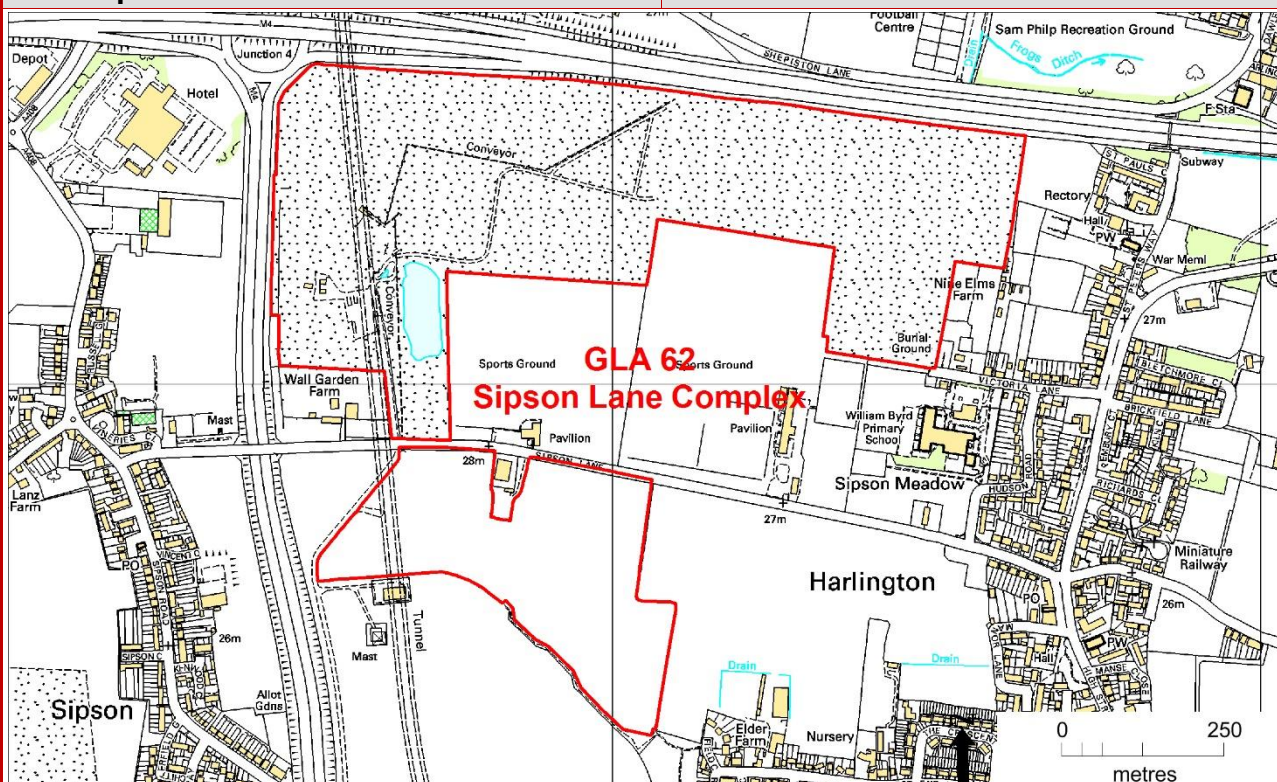


## GLA 62 Sipson Lane Quarry Complex

Grid Reference: TQ 076 779	Site Type: aggregate quarry site
Site Area (hectares): 49.48	Current use: active and disused gravel quarries
Site ownership: AABC Group	Borough: London Borough of Hillingdon
Field surveyor: Diana Clements/Peter Collins Revisited: Allan Wheeler	Date: June 2012 Date: 2019
Current geological designation: Recommended by Partnership as a RIGS	Other designation: Borough Grade I SINC (Wall Garden Farm Sand Heaps)

### Site Map

OS Topography © Crown Copyright



### Stratigraphy and Rock Types

Time Unit: Pleistocene	Rock Unit: Langley Silt Member, Maidenhad Formation
Rock Type: Brickearth (silt)	Details: Fine-grained silt suitable for making bricks
Time Unit: Pleistocene	Rock Unit: Taplow Gravel Member, Maidenhead Formation
Rock Type: Sand and gravel	Details: Sand and pebbles (mostly flint)


### Site Description

In 2012 this was newest development on Sipson Lane on the site of the potential third runway for Heathrow. When visited, the excavation was observed continuously by a MOLAS archaeologist while the Langley Silt was being stripped to reveal the Taplow Gravel beneath. This was a five year-project and had been found to be a multi-period site. Descriptions of the finds of the first three years can be found in *London Archaeologist* round-up of fieldwork for 2010, 2011, 2012. The site was re-visited in 2017, mainly to discuss any additional finds with the archaeologists who were actively working on the site. In 2019 it was ascertained that two sites were operated by London Concrete; they are both within the M25 but the second is in Denham, outside the GLA.

The Langley Silt is c.1m and the Taplow Gravel dug to reveal 2m. On the north side of Sipson Road quarrying had revealed a depth of c. 9m in the Taplow Gravel without reaching the London Clay. The gravel is used as aggregate and is the only remaining GLA working quarry in the Colne Valley. In 2021 the site was operated by AABC Group.

### Assessment of Site Value

**Geodiversity topic:** Lithostratigraphy; sedimentology.

<b>Access and Safety</b>		
<b>Aspect</b>	<b>Description</b>	
Safety of access	The working quarry can only be visited when accompanied by a representative of the quarry owner. It is locked when not operating. The owner is reluctant to allow visitors.	
Safety of exposure	Danger from machinery	
Permission to visit	AABC Group operate the site: 020 8897 0222.	
Current condition	The site began excavation in early 2012 and is being actively quarried but coming close to the end of being actively quarried.	
Current conflicting activities	Currently an operating quarry; likely to be restored once extraction ceases.	
Restricting conditions	Difficulty of access	
Nature of exposure	Quarry of Taplow Gravel overlain by Langley Silt (Brickearth)	
<b>Culture, Heritage &amp; Economic</b>		
<b>Aspect</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Rating</b>
Historic, archaeological & literary associations	The current quarrying activity is the latest of a number of quarries in the area, some of which have important archaeological finds (e.g. under Terminal 5 and Holloway Lane); this has proved to be a multi-period site and excavations are on-going.	7
Aesthetic landscape	Private land (formerly agricultural), flat within view of Heathrow Airport	4
History of Earth Sciences	Part of Thames Terraces which tell a story	5
Economic geology	Gravel extraction has been an important industry in the Colne Valley; as far as could be ascertained, this is the only remaining working quarry in west London within the GLA area.	8
<b>GeoScientific Merit</b>		
Geomorphology	Flat terrace feature close to the Thames	2
Sedimentology	Potential detailed description of the gravels possible	6
Palaeontology	Langley Silt being investigated by MOLA	7
Igneous/mineral/ Metamorphic Geology	None	0
Structural Geology	None	0
Lithostratigraphy	Taplow Gravel	6
Potential use	Research; (off-site education on Thames Terraces)	
Fragility	Landfill	
<b>Current Site Value</b>		
Community	(gazetteer information only)	2
Education	Access not possible so only off-site discussions	2
<b>Geodiversity value</b>		
Recommended by Partnership as a RIGS: It is unlikely that an accessible face can be maintained on this site but should be considered in the next round of planning applications. This is the only working quarry within the GLA in the Colne Valley.		6
<b>GLA 62 Sipson Lane Quarry Complex</b>		
		
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Southern quarry: Taplow Gravel Member. Langley Silt Member exposed above the bench</b> Photo: Peter Collins, June 2012</p>		