

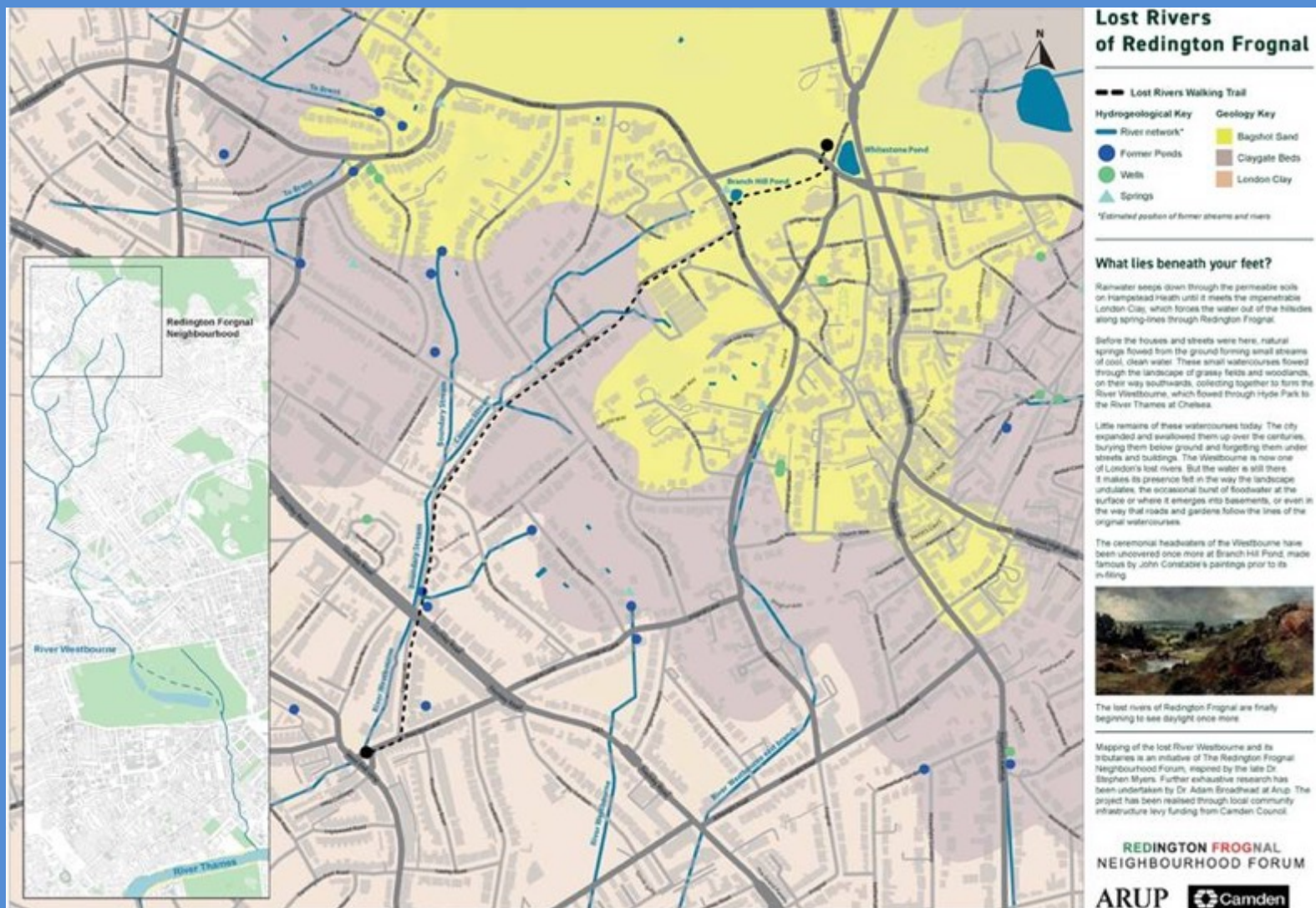


Walking the Westbourne

A geological trail along the River Westbourne
from Branch Hill Pond to the Thames

Diana Clements 15 October 2025

LONDON
GEODIVERSITY
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Design by Dee
McLean Art

Total length 14.5 k, about 9 miles

Part 1

Branch Hill Pond to West Hampstead
Stations

Part 2

West Hampstead Stations to the
Serpentine

Part 3

The Serpentine to the Thames

The River Westbourne

... from the Source to the Thames

From its source at Branch Hill Pond the Cannon Stream is joined by the Boundary Stream and several other streams in the Redington Frogna area to form the Westbourne. Could the origin of the name be because the stream (bourne) flows to the west from Hampstead Heath or from West End Lane or even Westbourne in the Paddington area?



The pond at
Branch Hill



Daylighting
Branch Hill Pond

It flows through Kilburn, where it is joined by a tributary also arising from lower down the Hampstead hill and possibly gathering additional water from the Spa there.



Kilburn Wells
& Spa

Bayswater road is named after 'Bays Watering Hole' which was the river.



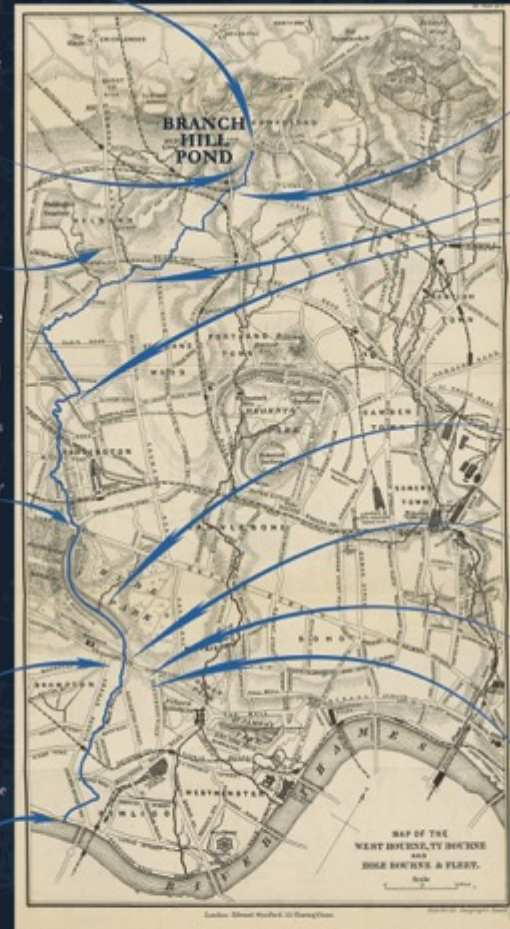
Bayswater
conduit



Sloane Square tube
with Westbourne pipe
going over the top



Confluence with
Thames



Crossing the dip in
the Finchley Road



At Maida Vale it
passes beneath the
Grand Union Canal

The Westbourne is commemorated by several street names in the area around Westbourne Green, between Notting Hill and Paddington.



The Serpentine



Knight's
Bridge



"Water's Murmur"
(Westbourne)
Julian Stocks,
Kinnerton Street,
Knightsbridge



Map of the West Bourn, Ty Bourn, and Hole Bourn & Fleet 1884 Stanfords

Walking the Westbourne Part 1

Branch Hill Pond to West
Hampstead Stations

Start: Branch Hill Pond

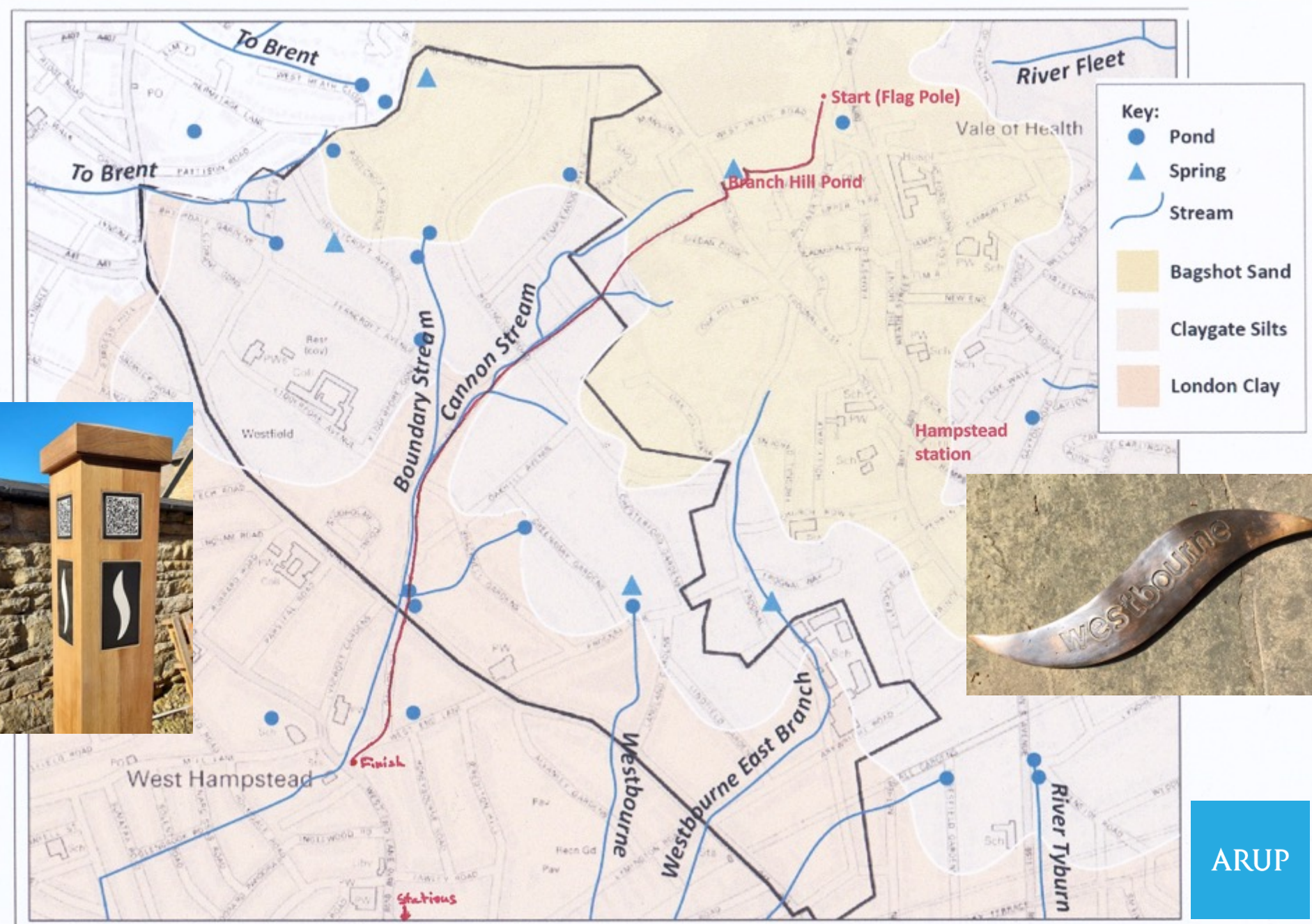


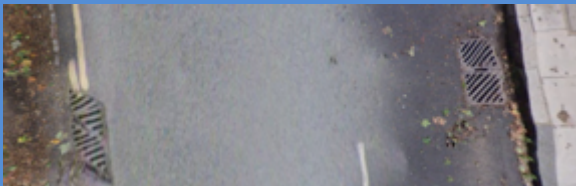
Photo Nancy Mayo 2022



Photo Nancy Mayo 2025

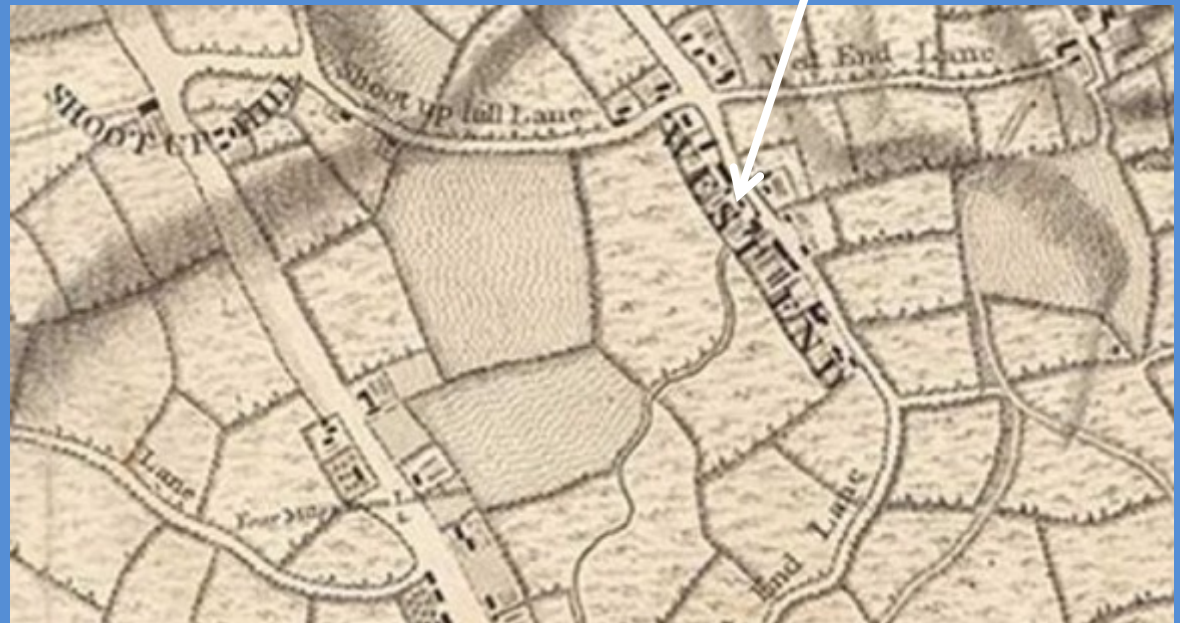
The sources of the Westbourne and their relation to the geology





Finish of Part 2

West Hampstead Stations in 1746 (Rocque map)

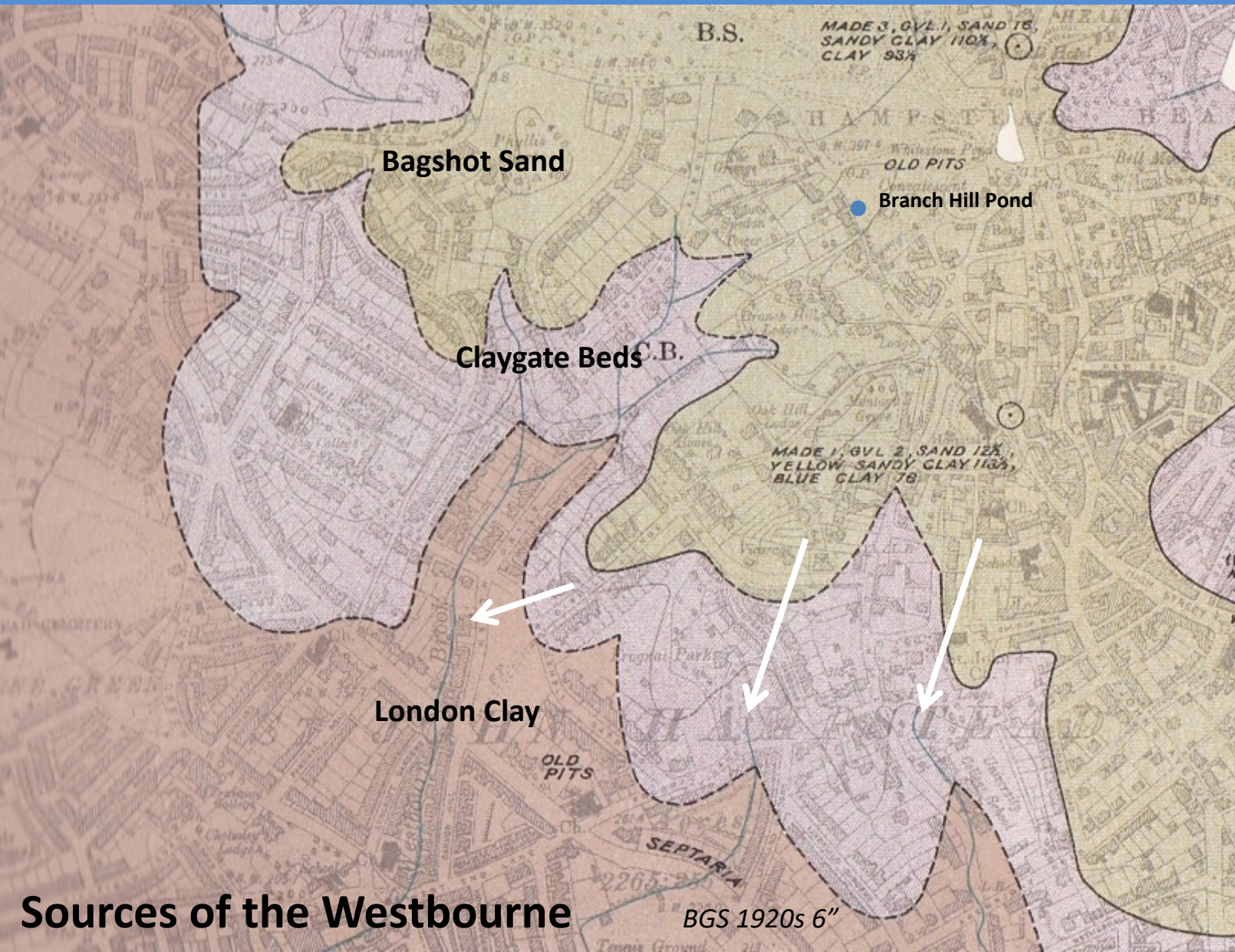


Walking the Westbourne

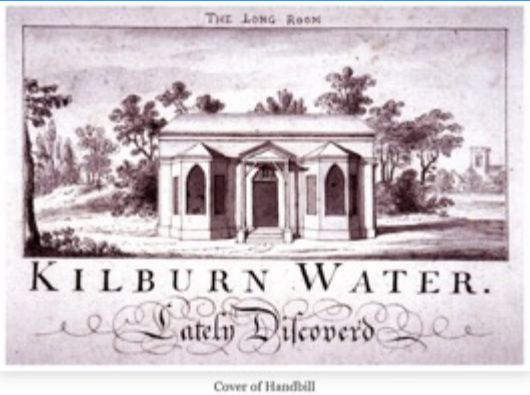
Part 2

West Hampstead Stations to the Serpentine

Start: West Hampstead Stations



Kilburn

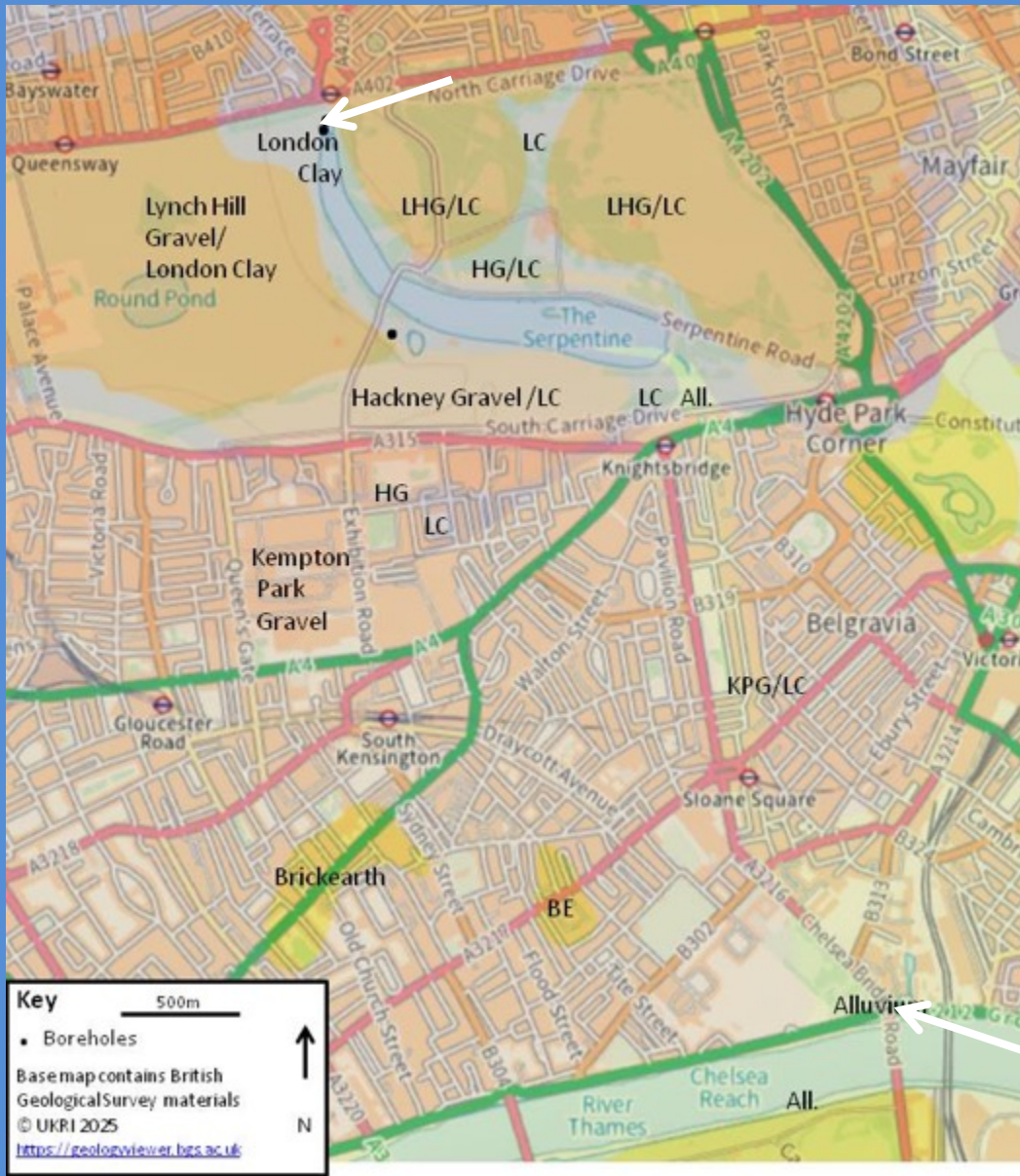


Finish of Part 2 Bayswater Road Drinking Fountain



Walking the Westbourne Part 3

The Serpentine to the Thames

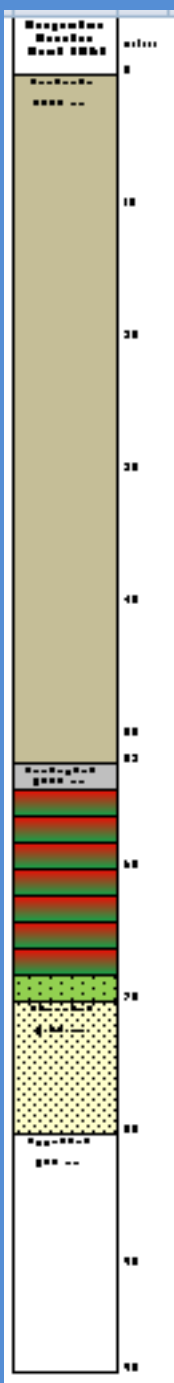


Start:
**Head of the Longwater
in Hyde Park**

Note how the river has
eroded the much younger
Thames Terrace gravels

From the outfall of the
Serpentine to the Thames,
the route is underlain by pale
yellow Alluvium

Finish: Chelsea Embankment



Hyde Park



Finish before
Thames Tideway





The new end to the walk in 2025

**Thames Tideway opened their
Chelsea Quay in 2024**

Note the layered brickwork of the
Florian Roithmayr design

The ventilation shafts lead into the
'super sewer' that runs down the
centre of the Thames

Thanks

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