GLA 22 Keston Common		
Grid Reference: TQ 419 640	Site Type: Natural exposures on scarp slope, springs & sinks	
Site Area (hectares): 11.82	Current use: Recreational	
Site ownership: London Borough of Bromley	Borough: London Borough of Bromley	
Field surveyor: Joanna Brayson Re-surveyed: Paul Rainey/Diana Clements Last visited: Paul Rainey	Date: March 2011 Date: 2014 Date: 2017	
Current geological designation: RIGS	Other designation: Keston and Hayes Commons SSSI (Biological); Metropolitan SINC (River Ravensbourne, Ravensbourne Valley Woodlands, Hayes and Keston Commons); Scheduled Ancient Monument	
Site Map	OS Topography © Crown Copyright	
111m Sch	South Park Code Farringleys	



Stratigraphy and Rock Types		
Time Unit: Pleistocene	"Darwin's bog"	
Rock Type: Sand and gravel	Peat	
Time Unit: Eocene	Rock Unit: Blackheath Member, Harwich Formation, Thames Group	
Rock Type: Sand and gravel	Details: Sand and pebbles (mostly round, black), widespread.	
Time Unit: Paleocene-Eocene	Rock Unit: Lambeth Group	
Rock Type: Clay, silt, sand	Details: Laminated beds have been revealed in past in animal excavations close to the ponds.	

Site Description

Best exposure of the Harwich Formation is on the steep bank to the east of the London Loop trail to the south of the car park (TQ 4190 6395), at the top of the slope adjacent to Westerham Road. They lie at the top of a gully formed by gravel extraction. In places the small rounded black pebbles are cemented by calcite. The ubiquitous black pebbles of the Harwich Formation are found all over the common.

On the west side of the middle pond, small exposures of a sandy facies may belong to the top of the Lambeth Group or the base of the Harwich Formation.

The most southerly, top pond is fed from Caesar's Well, the spring probably enforced by a clay layer within the Lambeth Group.

Darwin's bog (valley mire) lies to the north of the Fishpond Road that bisects the common. Here Darwin studied various aspects of natural history and observed sundews in this boggy area underlain by clay.

Assessment of Site Value			
	ntology, lithostratigraphy, groundwater processes		
Access and Safety	57. 5 1 7.5		
Aspect	Description		
Road access & parking	Car parks off Westerham Road (and Heathfield Road)		
Safety of access	Paths through wood and around lake		
Safety of exposure	Best exposure at top of steep slope, seasonally muddy		
Permission to visit	Open access		
Current condition	Small exposures at top of steep embankment		
Current conflicting activities	none		
Restricting conditions	Possibly masked by vegetation		
Nature of exposure	Small exposures on slope and in woodland. Spring at Caesar's well along east side of ponds.	and	
Culture, Heritage & Econor	nic		
Aspect	Description	Rating	
Historic, archaeological & literary associations	Drain includes bog crossing common immediately to north was source of insectivorous plant, round-leaved sundew for Darwin. There are Iron Age fortifications within the area	6	
Aesthetic landscape	Valuable green spaced used by local community	6	
History of Earth Sciences	Caesar's Spring described by Tertiary Research Group	4	
Economic geology	Gravel extraction created the gully where the exposure can be seen. The two top ponds were used as reservoirs to feed Holwood House.	6	
GeoScientific Merit			
Geomorphology	Springs arising from beneath Harwich pebbles (and or sand)	5	
Sedimentology	Environment of deposition	6	
Palaeontology	None seen	0	
Igneous/mineral/ Metamorphic Geology	None	0	
Structural Geology	None	0	
Lithostratigraphy	Correlation of Harwich Formation	5	
Potential use	Points of Interest on London Loop; on-site interpretation; higher further education		
Fragility	Natural overgrowth producing shade and reducing temporary exposures.		
Current Site Value			
Community	Used daily by dog walkers etc; London Loop; Ravensbourne Trail; Keston Trail	10	
Education	Darwin connections	6	
Geodiversity value			
RIGS: Good small exposure	es with adequate access; springs; Darwin's Bog	6	

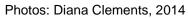
GLA 22 Keston Common





Exposure at top of slope in gully

Cemented layer





Caesar's Well leading to lake and River Ravensbourne. Photo: Laurie Baker, February 2016