

## GLA 25 Putney Heath

Grid Reference: TQ 233 731	Site Type: Natural exposure
Site Area (hectares): 35.30	Current use: Recreational land
Site ownership: London Borough of Wandsworth	Borough: London Borough of Wandsworth
Field surveyor: Joanna Brayson	Date: May 2011
Latest visit: Diana Clements (LB PR AW)	Date: July 2018
Current geological designation: LIGS	Other designation: Metropolitan SIN C (Wimbledon Common and Putney Heath)

### Site Map

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### Stratigraphy and Rock Types

Time Unit: Pleistocene	Rock Unit: Black Park Gravel Formation
Rock Type: Sand and Gravel	Details: Sand and gravel, with possible lenses of silt, clay or peat. [Generic description]. Horizontally stratified, matrix supported gravel with thin tabular cross-bedded sand channels. Gravel assemblage is characterised by abundant flint (75-89%), sparse rounded flint (3-9%), sparse vein quartz (4-10%) and sparse quartzite (1-6%) which includes both Lower Greensand Chert and Bunter pebbles
Time Unit: Eocene	Rock Unit: London Clay Formation
Rock Type: Clay, silt, sand	Details: Fine, sandy, silty clay/clayey silt. Glauconitic at base.

### Site Description

Small exposures of Black Park Gravel (Thames river terrace) on the heath. Putney Heath is included as a LIGS site for its small exposures of Black Park Gravel. The best exposure can be seen round the edges of King's Mere Lake. The area cited is a plateau on the top of the wider parkland area which becomes Wimbledon Common to the south. The plateau also extends into the adjacent Richmond Park to the west. The Black Park Gravel is the oldest of the Thames terraces, deposited immediately after the retreat of the Anglian Ice Sheet about 400,000 years ago. On Putney Heath they overlie London Clay formation but further south they overlie the sandier Claygate member at the top of the London Clay and in the southwest, the overlying Bagshot Formation. London Clay can be seen around the perimeter of the Curling Pond, particularly in summer when the water level is low.  
 Drakeford A. & Sutcliffe U. (Eds) 2000. *Wimbledon Common & Putney Heath. A Natural History*. Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators.

<b>Assessment of Site Value</b>		
<b>Geodiversity topic:</b> Lithostratigraphy' sedimentology.		
<b>Access and Safety</b>		
<b>Aspect</b>	<b>Description</b>	
Safety of access	Footpaths, some rough.	
Safety of exposure	Felt unsafe alone, fine in groups.	
Permission to visit	Open access.	
Current condition	Well managed by conservators, some landscaping (paths etc).	
Current conflicting activities	None.	
Restricting conditions	None.	
Nature of exposure	Patchy exposures under bushes, in tracks.	
<b>Culture, Heritage &amp; Economic</b>		
<b>Aspect</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Rating</b>
Historic, archaeological & literary associations		
Aesthetic landscape	Part of large open space in urban area.	8
History of Earth Sciences		
Economic geology	None.	0
<b>GeoScientific Merit</b>		
Geomorphology	None.	0
Sedimentology	Composition and depositional environment of gravels.	6
Palaeontology	None	0
Igneous / mineral / metamorphic geology	None.	0
Structural Geology	None.	0
Lithostratigraphy	Relationship of terrace gravels and bedrock.	6
Potential use	On-site interpretation; research; include in geotrail around Wandsworth Common/Putney Heath	
Fragility	Natural overgrowing.	
<b>Current Site Value</b>		
Community	Valuable open space used daily.	10
Education		4
<b>Geodiversity value</b>		
LIGS: Small exposures in large open area with good access.		3
<b>GLA 25 Putney Heath</b>		
		
Black Park Gravel surrounding King's Mere.	London Clay exposed in the base of Curling Pond.	
Photos: Diana Clements, July 2019		