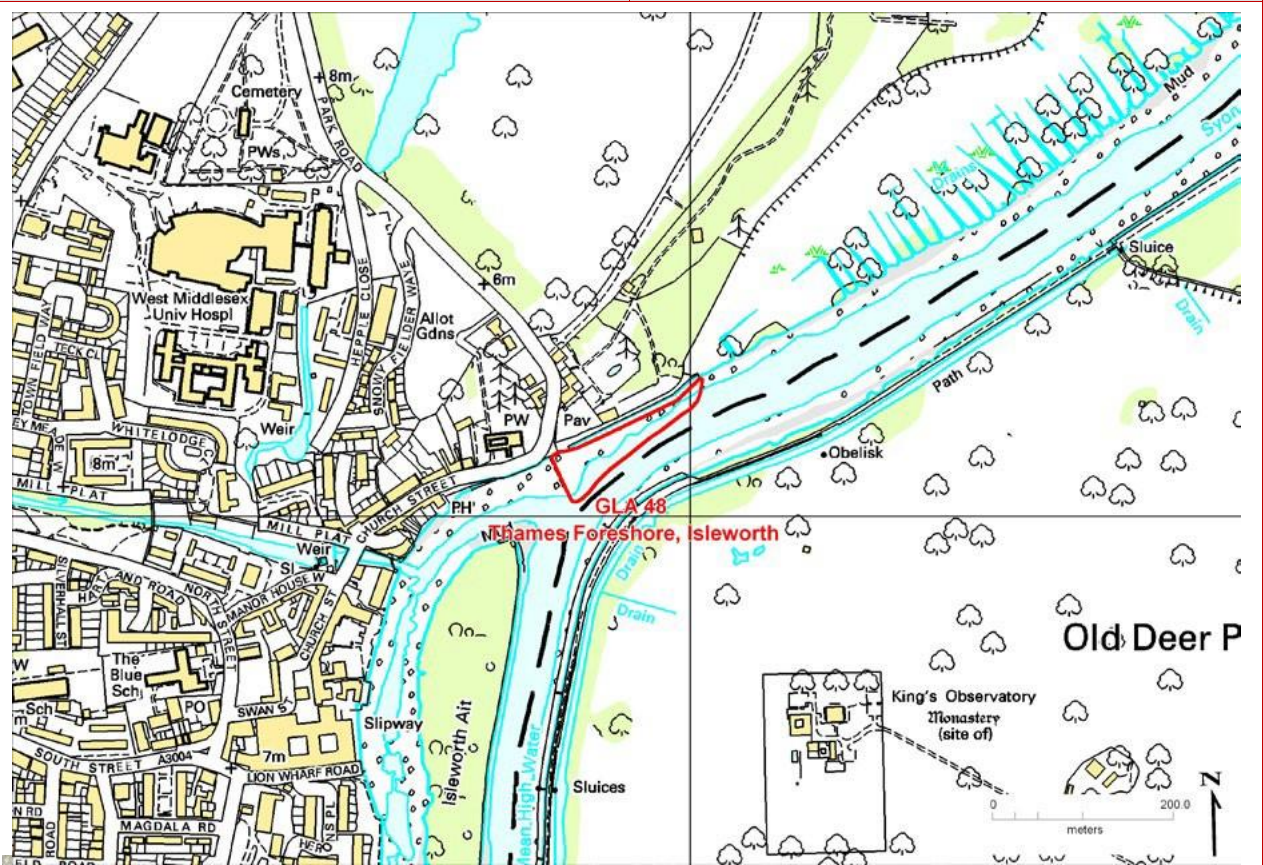


**GLA 48 Thames Foreshore, Isleworth**

Grid Reference TQ 168 760	Site Type: Thames Foreshore (low tide necessary)
Site Area (hectares): 0.56	Current use: public access at low tide used by local people to feed ducks & view Thames
Site ownership: Port of London Authority	Borough: London Borough of Hounslow
Field surveyors: Diana Clements Revisited: Allan Wheeler	Date: June 2010 Date: April 2019
Current geological designation: RIGS	Other designation: Metropolitan SINIC (River Thames and tidal tributaries)
<b>Site Map</b>	OS Topography © Crown Copyright



**Stratigraphy and Rock Types**

Time Unit: Eocene	Rock Unit: London Clay Formation, Thames Group
Rock Type: Clay, silt, sand	Details: Fine, clayey silt, clay; includes septarian nodules

**Site Description**


There are a number of sites in the upper tidal reaches of the Thames where the river gravels have been eroded away to expose small patches of London Clay at low tide. For the most part a spring tide is required to see them. They are easily distinguished from the alluvium by the presence of *in situ* and broken septarian nodules. The best exposure is at Isleworth where access is easy and pale pink fossil *Ditrupa* point the way to other molluscs which are mostly preserved as black pyrite (golden if fresh) (Division C2-D1 of King, 1981). Other exposures can be seen under Hammersmith Bridge (N. side) and upstream from Kew Railway Bridge (southside). They provide a rare opportunity of seeing in situ London Clay with septaria other than in temporary sites.

**Assessment of Site Value**

**Geodiversity topic:** lithostratigraphy, sedimentology; palaeontology

**Access and Safety**

Aspect	Description
Safety of access	On street car parking is adjacent to the steps down to the foreshore
Safety of exposure	The exposure can be very slippery in places and the rock fragments on the

	foreshore are difficult to walk over. A low tide is essential.	
Permission to visit	Open access.	
Current condition	The exposure at Isleworth is on the outside of a bend and is best seen by continuing downstream from the steps towards Syon House. The area is approximately 80 m long and c. 4.5 m wide.	
Current conflicting activities	None	
Restricting conditions	Silt covering; high tides	
Nature of exposure	Natural foreshore exposure	
<b>Culture, Heritage &amp; Economic</b>		
<b>Aspect</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Rating</b>
Historic, archaeological & literary associations	Described by Rundle, 1970 and GA Guide 68, Itinerary 10, 2012	5
Aesthetic landscape	Opposite Kew & frequented by locals. Adjacent to good pub	7
History of Earth Sciences	Unknown	
Economic geology		0
<b>GeoScientific Merit</b>		
Geomorphology	Outside of bend in Thames causing Thames gravels to be eroded	2
Sedimentology	Recognised by septarian nodules within the London clay which is mostly weathered orange	6
Palaeontology	Mostly microfossils recorded by Rundle, 1970 but the tube-worm <i>Ditrupa</i> is easily picked out. Occasional small gastropods & bivalves mostly pyritised and weathered dark. Rare fresh golden examples can be found.	4
Igneous/mineral/ Metamorphic Geology	None	0
Structural Geology		
Lithostratigraphy	Rare exposures of <i>in situ</i> London Clay & septaria	6
Potential use	Education; research	
Fragility	Covering by silt or rising water levels	
<b>Current Site Value</b>		
Community	Accessible foreshore	6
Education	View of local bedrock	6
<b>Geodiversity value</b>		
RIGS: Rare example of permanent exposure of in situ London Clay with septarian nodules and fossils, albeit only exposed at low spring tides.		6
<b>GLA 48 Thames foreshore, Isleworth</b>		
		<p>Foreshore in 2008 Photo: Diana Clements</p>