

GLA 6 Croham Hurst	
Grid Reference: TQ 338 630	Site Type: Natural exposure
Site Area (hectares): 34.57	Current use: Recreational land
Site ownership: London Borough of Croydon	Borough: London Borough of Croydon
Field surveyor: Joanna Brayson Last visited: Paul Rainey, Frequently visited by Paul Sowan, CNHSS	Date: April 2010 Date: 2016
Current geological designation: RIGS	Other designation: SSSI (Biological); Metropolitan SINC (Croham Hurst)
Site Map OS Topography © Crown Copyright	
Stratigraphy and Rock Types	
Time Unit: Eocene	Rock Unit: Blackheath Member, Harwich Formation, Thames Group
Rock Type: Sand and gravel	Details: Sandy clays and sands; marine fauna, locally brackish; Pebble bed cemented in places
Time Unit: Paleocene-Eocene	Rock Unit: Lambeth Group NB Not seen and probably absent, channelled into by Blackheath Member.
Rock Type: Sand and gravel	Details: Glauconitic sands overlain by grey clays and sands with Brackish fauna and interleaved red and variegated clays and sands.
Time Unit: Paleocene	Rock Unit: Thanet Formation
Rock Type: Sand	Details: Glauconite-coated, nodular flint at base, overlain by pale yellow-brown, fine-grained sand that can be clayey and glauconitic.
Time Unit: Late Cretaceous	Rock Unit: Seaford Chalk Formation, White Chalk Subgroup.
Rock Type: Chalk	Details: Chalk
Site Description	
<p>Small exposures of calcite cemented rounded flint pebbles belonging to the Harwich Formation can be found at the top of this steep inlier. Evidence of chalk and Thanet Formation can also be found in landslips, animal holes, eroded surfaces and in fallen tree roots. The disused Chalk and Thanet Sand quarries are rather overgrown. Although the Lambeth Group should also be visible, it has been very elusive and it is possible that the Blackheath Beds are within a channel that has cut it out, at least for much of the hill. There are several information boards erected by Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society showing the location of the disused quarries and outcrops.</p>	

Assessment of Site Value		
Geodiversity topic: Sedimentology; lithostratigraphy, geomorphology.		
Access and Safety		
Aspect	Description	
Safety of access	Footpaths through woods. Slippery in autumn with leaf cover.	
Safety of exposure	As above.	
Permission to visit	Open access, check with local borough for organised visits.	
Current condition	Patchy exposures, hard to find in autumn due to leaf cover.	
Current conflicting activities	None.	
Restricting conditions	Small exposures in woods.	
Nature of exposure	Small exposures on floor of woodland.	
Culture, Heritage & Economic		
Aspect	Description	Rating
Historic, archaeological & literary associations	Evidence of a Mesolithic settlement and occupation up until Bronze age burials.	6
Aesthetic landscape	Valuable green space.	6
History of Earth Sciences	Three different formations have been located at this site. Excavation could provide information on these formations and their boundaries, and confirm that the Lambeth Group is absent throughout.	6
Economic geology	None.	0
GeoScientific Merit		
Geomorphology	Shape of hill due to the properties of different formations.	6
Sedimentology	Depositional environment of four different formations.	6
Palaeontology	Possible in the chalk if excavated.	6
Igneous/mineral/ Metamorphic Geology	None.	0
Structural Geology	None.	0
Lithostratigraphy	Relationships between formations.	8
Potential use	Research; higher education; on-site interpretation.	
Fragility	Natural overgrowing; weathering/erosion.	
Current Site Value		
Community	Valuable green space.	10
Education	Information boards have been erected by the Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society but a leaflet published about the site is no longer available. Included in GA Guide 68, 2012, Itinerary 9 (see references). A friends group set up in 2002 has a website and organise events. See: https://friendsofcrohamhurstwoods.com/	4
Geodiversity value		
RIGS:	Small exposures of a range of lithologies in woodland with adequate access.	6

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Exposure of cemented Blackheath pebbles within woodland at top of the hill