

**GLA 3: Beckenham Place Park, Recommended RIGS**

London Borough of Lewisham, TQ 38534 70267

Ownership: Local Authority. Public Open Space

A small Exposure of Harwich Formation (rounded flint pebbles with calcareous cement) can be seen near the Crab Hill entrance to the park. The Eocene Harwich Formation (about 55 million years old) is very variable but when found in southeast London it is the Blackheath Beds that is the dominant [facies](#). These rounded pebbles are uniformly black and very distinctive. Here, in the public space of Beckenham Place Park they have been cemented and lumps can be seen beside the path on the east side near the base of the slope although in autumn they tend to be covered in leaves. A better example of cemented Blackheath Pebbles can be seen at the Dog Rocks on Plumstead Common (GLA 8). At the top of the slope the underlying rock type is London Clay although it is difficult to find actual exposures. Beckenham Place Park is on the Capital Ring ([www.walklondon.org.uk](http://www.walklondon.org.uk)) and Green Chain Walk ([http://greenchain.com/info/5/walking/2/green\\_chain\\_walk-sections/8](http://greenchain.com/info/5/walking/2/green_chain_walk-sections/8)).

**Harwich Formation boulders and outcrop**

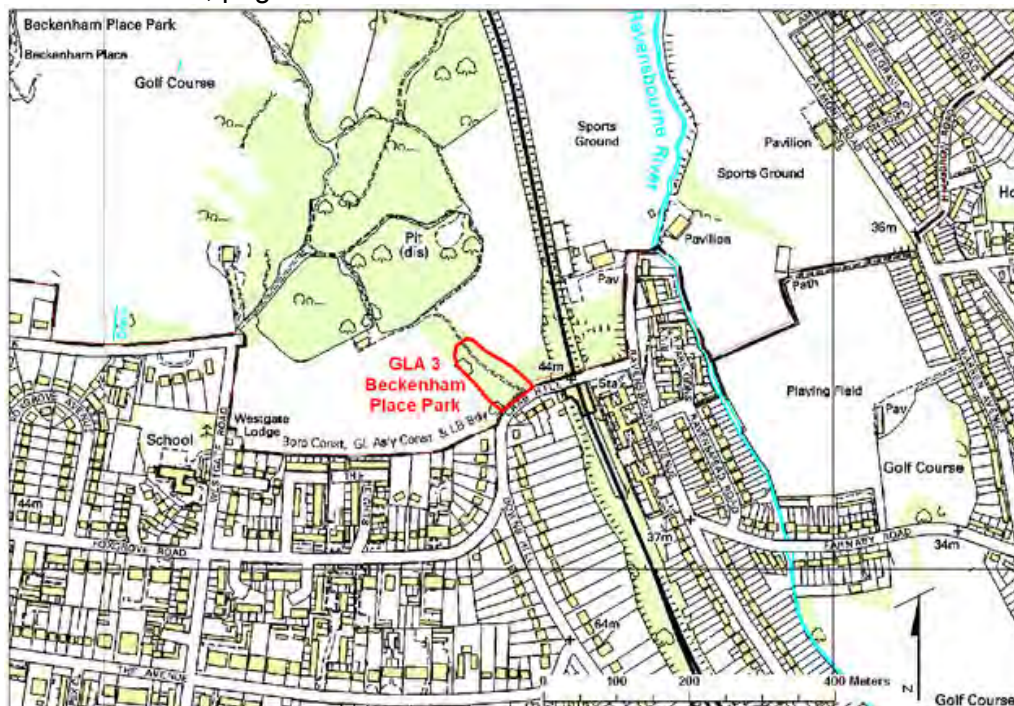
Source: London's foundations, page 126



**Site Map**

Source: London's foundations, page 125

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**GLA 4: Chelsfield Gravel, Recommended RIGS**

London Borough of Bromley, TQ 476 642

Ownership: Court Lodge Farm. Access to some of the site is open, contact farm for access to the remainder of site.

This is the area where Late Pliocene/Early Pleistocene ([www.londongeopartnership.org.uk/londongeology.html](http://www.londongeopartnership.org.uk/londongeology.html)) Chelsfield Gravel which has been reworked from the Harwich Formation was first identified (known as its type locality). The deposit is interpreted as a head, partly let down with the underlying Thanet Sand into dissolution hollows in the Chalk below. It consists of well-rounded flint pebble gravels, sandy gravels, pebbly sands and sands. The lithologies are similar to those in Harwich Formation (Blackheath Beds) from which it is thought to have been mainly derived. The precise age is difficult to interpret and has variously been dated as Pre-Anglian or earlier ([See BGS Special Memoir, p.55](#)).

This outcrop covers an area of grassy footpaths frequented by dog walkers who use the nearby station car park. It also extends into farmland on either side which is where the gravel can be seen in ploughed fields. A viewpoint of the local area is situated at the edge of the open area from where the Chelsfield Gravel can be viewed. Geological information could be added to the existing interpretation sign.

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**View of feature forming edge of Chelsfield Gravel outcrop**

Source: London's foundations, page 128



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**Site Map**

Source: London's foundations, page 127

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