

GLA 64 Waterlow Park, LIGS

London Borough of Brent, TQ 286 872
Ownership: London Borough of Camden

The length of the park covers three lithologies: London Clay at the base, with the sandier Claygate Member above and topped by the Bagshot Sand at the Highgate end. The park slopes downwards, approximately from northwest to southeast, and is artificially terraced. This site includes land which was formerly landscaped as gardens for several large houses, including historic Lauderdale House, which still stands within the park and is presently used as arts centre and café. There are three ponds, fed from natural springs, of which there are several. During a recent visit, one spring was visible at TQ 2864 8721. The ponds have been landscaped and excavated, since being incorporated within the gardens in the sixteenth century.

The top of the middle pond, at TQ 2871 8706, has an elevation of approximately 90m. This equates approximately to the base of the Claygate Member. No obvious exposure was noted, even around the ponds. As far as could be ascertained, the drinking fountain, at TQ 2866 8726, is sited on the boundary between Bagshot Sand and Claygate Member at c. 110m.

There are spectacular views of London especially from the level of uppermost of the three ponds. The plaque near the statue of Sir Sydney Waterlow, TQ 2872 8722, states that this viewpoint is at the same elevation (100m) as the top of the dome of St. Paul's.

No exposures of sand, clay or gravel but spring-lines infer. When seen on the adjacent Hampstead Heath the Bagshot Sand is predominantly fine sand showing stratification and locally iron rich. Below, the Claygate Member of the London Clay is usually laminated, clays/silts/sands, coarsening upwards. The London Clay is clay which becomes progressively siltier close to the Claygate Member.

The adjacent Archway Road was the site for many of the fossils from the London Clay now in the Natural History Museum 'Highgate Collection'. They come from Division E2 of King (1981), immediately beneath the Claygate Member (Division E3).

Access

From Dartmouth Park Hill, Highgate Hill and Swains Lane. Restricted parking. Buses 271, 210 and 143 stop outside Lauderdale House.

Reference:

King, C., 1981. The stratigraphy of the London Clay and associated deposits. *Tertiary Research Special Paper*, **6**, 1-158



Probable spring lines



View across London
Photos: Diana Clements 2014

