

GLA 70 Richmond Park, LIGS

London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames, TQ 043 916
Ownership: The Royal Parks

Richmond Park includes three predominant lithologies: London Clay at the base, with the sandier Claygate Member above and, on the highest ground, the Black Park Gravel, the oldest of the Thames Gravels following the retreat of the Anglian Ice Sheet. An area of the park has been chosen where all three of these lithologies are present. It is in the extreme south west between Ham Gate, Kingston Gate and Ladderstile Gate, joined into a more or less rectangular shape by the track leading to Ham Cross. A fault crossing NE/SW is marked by the line of the gully from Ham Gate that crosses the main N/S road and continues beyond to Pen Ponds (outside the designated area). The block to the south is down thrown with respect to the north as no Claygate Beds underlie the Black Park Gravel in the northern part of the park.

Actual exposures are rare but to the west of Thatched House Lodge and between there and the road there is a slipped area (TQ 1905 7115) where Claygate Beds are exposed. From the ridge above these are seen to be rotated slips bringing the Claygate Beds to a lower level than the *in-situ* outcrop. On the climb up the slope from this exposure to the track leading from the north up to Thatched House Lodge there are exposed areas of *in situ* Claygate Beds in the gullies. They are covered by a surface blanket of clasts eroded from the Black Park Gravel and it is probable that the top half metre of gravel is *in situ*. Any temporary exposures above 50m should expose *in situ* Black Park Gravel (e.g. at Kings Clump). The BGS map shows a small patch of worked ground on the NE edge of this plateau. Sand was observed on the slope (<45m) up to Kings Clump, just west of the *Mound* at c. TQ 1945 7090 which is a little low for the mapped area of Black Park Gravel. The adjacent Wimbledon Common shows Bagshot Formation above the Claygate Beds and underlying the Black Park Gravel in the most southerly area. It is tempting to think this small exposure could be Bagshot sand but more investigation would be required to prove it. The probability is that it is sandy facies at the top of the Claygate Beds.

Section 6 of the Capital Ring runs through Richmond Park, around the high ground at Pembroke Lodge further north than the designated area and crosses the fault at Pen Ponds. See: [Section 6 of 15: Wimbledon Park to Richmond \(Friars Lane\) \(innerlondonramblers.org.uk\)](#). A Geotrail through the designated area is available on the LGP website.

Access

Parking is available in designated car parks around Richmond Park at a charge. The car park at Kingston Gate is recommended for the designated area. Much used park crossed by the Capital Ring. Catering facilities at Pembroke Lodge (north end) and a small shop outside the Lodge selling books etc.

References

British Geological Survey map 1:50,000 South London 270

Geotrail is available on www.londongeopartnership.org.uk/geotrails



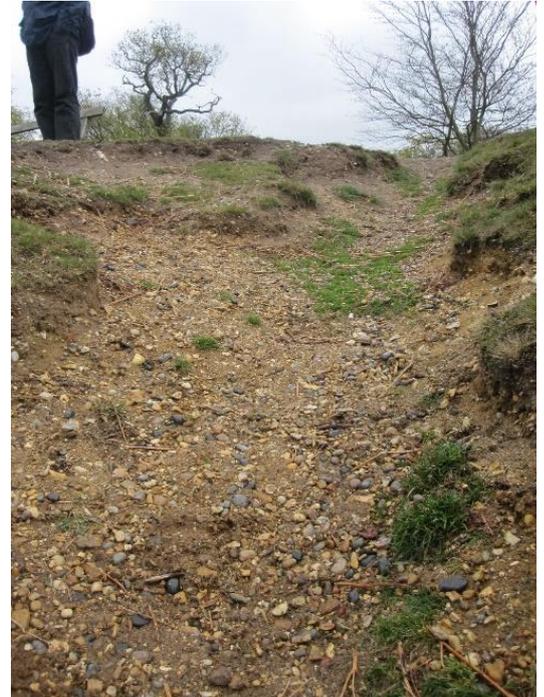
Rotational slip beneath Thatched House Lodge



Exposure probably Claygate Member at top of rotational slip



Exposures up to track leading north from Thatched House Lodge



Surface gravel (mostly eroded) underlain by Claygate Member

Photos Diana Clements 2014

Site Map

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