

GLA 76 Rockingham Anomaly, Candidate LIGS

London Borough of Southwark, TQ 3215 7915
Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

The Rockingham Anomaly is visible on the surface as a roughly circular depressed area about 300m across due to significant surface subsidence. It is underlain by an accumulation of peat up to 5.5 m deep. This is the upper part of the fill of a deep scour hollow, one of a number of hollows close to the Thames in central London.

Whilst deposits of peat are common in the flood plain deposits bordering the middle and lower Thames in some places, associated with submerged forests, there are few peat deposits inland. The hollow cuts through the Kempton Park gravel and into the London Clay. It is at least 15m deep.

In May 2017 the LGP obtained permission to auger and extracted peat from about 2m depth, primarily for Gail Dickerson to use in her artworks. It has been dated between Late Neolithic to Middle Bronze Age (c.5,500 – 3,500 years before the present (BP), typical for London). It is thought to be the remains of an alder carr woodland. The presence of lime and elm pollen has been used to date it (see full details in report on LGP website). It is probable that the water came to the surface via a fault that may have penetrated the Lambeth Group sands beneath the London Clay feeding both the peat and osier wetlands. The area is now drained and the peat has compacted to give the 1.5m depression. The current housing estate was built in 1914 but there was earlier housing on the site, some of which was encountered on the auger.

Access

The site is a short walk from Elephant & Castle. Parking is Residents Only but there are some public pay bays. A local authority housing estate is built over the site which lies in a depression c.1.5 m deep.

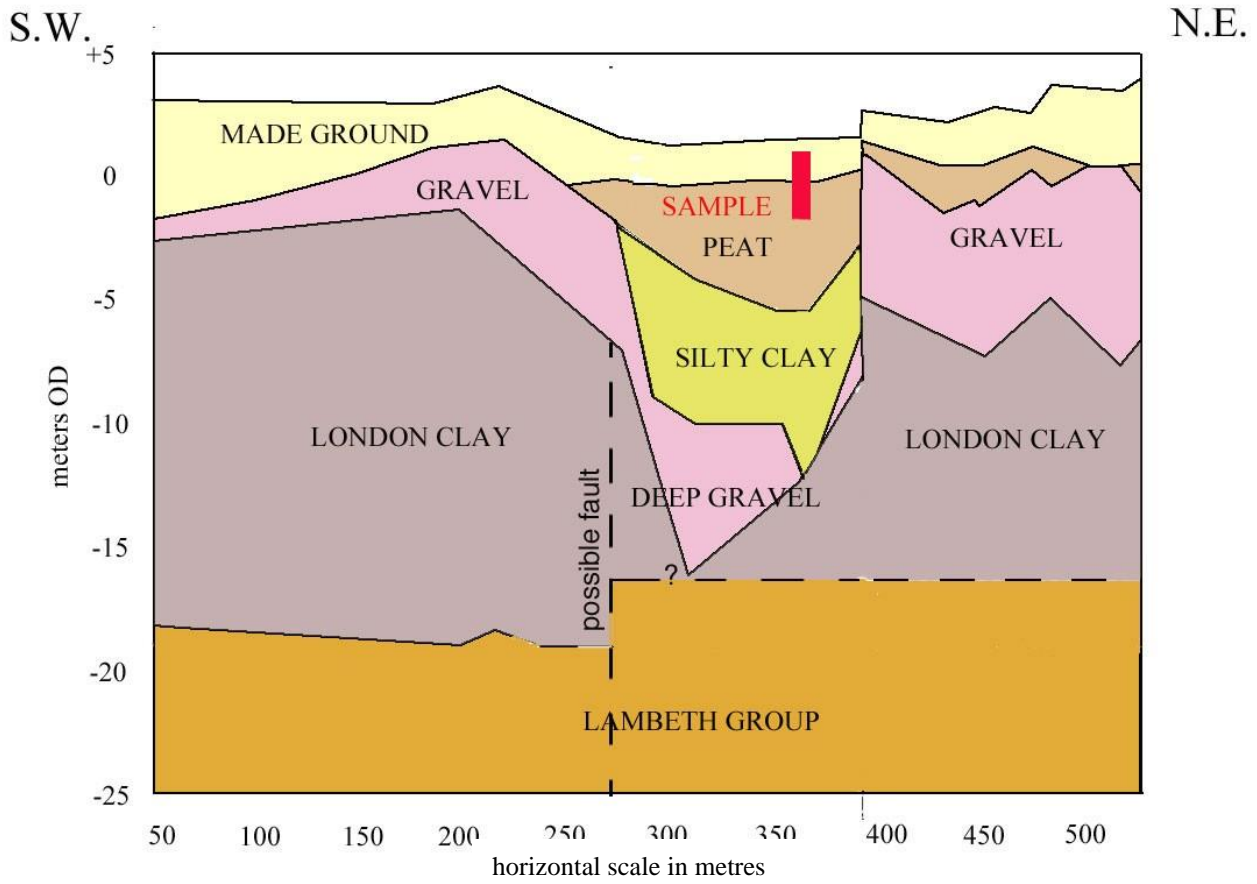
Reference

[The Rockingham Street Anomaly – Southwark. A Geoarchaeological Evaluation.](#)

Preliminary report April 2019 by Michael Hacker, Prof. Rob Scaife, Peter Collins.



Dip down Meadows Road to the Rockingham Anomaly. Photo Diana Clements, 2017



Section across the Rockingham Anomaly drawn by M. Hacker after P. Rainey



Rockingham Peat Artwork. Gail Dickerson 2017 www.ascstudios.co.uk/2018/02/core-sample

Site Map

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