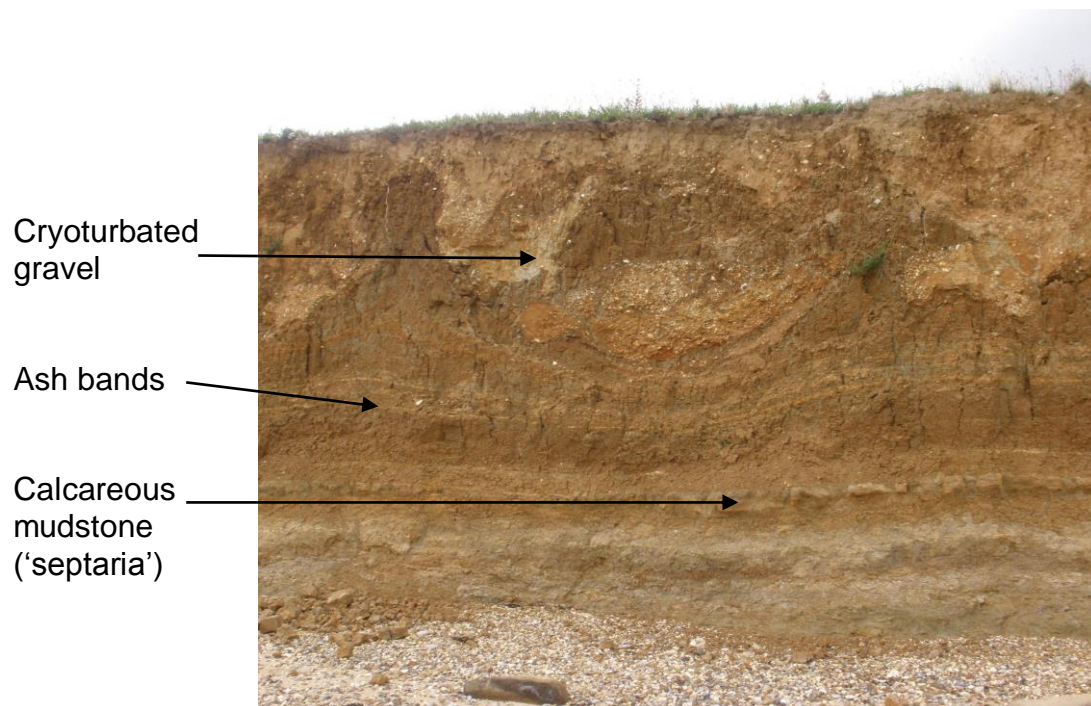


## HARKSTEAD CLIFF CGS

The low cliffs at Harkstead on the north shore of the Stour estuary are well known for exposures of Eocene London Clay (Harwich Formation) with interglacial channel deposits in the wave-cut platform. Access to the shore is by public footpath from Harkstead village.



The interglacial deposits were formed in the lower valley of a proto- River Stour some 210 000 years ago. A rich mammalian fauna has been found, including rhino, mammoth, bison, vole and red deer.



The London Clay has several thin yellow bands of decomposed ash deposited in the Eocene sea from erupting volcanoes in Ireland and Scotland. They help to date it to about 55million years BP. Some of the clay layers have been cemented by lime to form harder mudstones ('septaria'). The gravel above the London Clay has been 'cryoturbated' by freeze-thaw action during a cold phase of the Ice Age.