

**GLA 56: Bleak Hill Sandpits, Potential LIGS**

London Borough of Greenwich, TQ 4606 7776

Open access

The site is the remains of three pits. 1) Hope Cottage pit (TQ 4600 7768) (visited by the Geologists' Association in 1887<sup>1</sup> and 1906<sup>2</sup>) only in the strata above the Chalk, the floor is now a car park.

Jenner's (Hoar's) pit (TQ 4606 7766) (visited 1894, 1906<sup>2</sup>, 1908) only in Thanet Sand and Chalk), the floor is now a car park. Today it is a very steep, inaccessible face with mainly obscured geology (GA Guide 68, p. 97).

Tuff and Hoar's pit (TQ 4598 7776) (visited 1908, 1919<sup>3,4</sup>, 1929<sup>5</sup>). A photo (Priest, 1919<sup>3</sup>) shows a 25 m high face to the upper pit with Blackheath, Lambeth and Thanet strata and, lowering its floor, a 3m deep lower pit in Chalk. This area is now heavily overgrown and is accessed with difficulty by several minor footpaths from the Green Chain Walk (see [http://greenchain.com/downloads/file/1/green\\_chain\\_geo\\_trail\\_guide](http://greenchain.com/downloads/file/1/green_chain_geo_trail_guide)) to the north. There is still clear evidence of quarrying activities in the steep central valley. Several lumps of calcitic conglomerate were found (presumably from the Blackheath Beds). One appeared to be natural but several cylindrical pieces were manmade, possibly as test pieces. The geology is believed to be similar to Gilbert's Pit but few clear exposures are to be found.

**References**

- <sup>1</sup> Goodchild, 1887. Excursion to Plumstead and Bostal Heath. *Proceedings of the Geologists' Association*, 10, p. 193.
- <sup>2</sup> Leach A.L. & Polkinghorne, B.C. 1906. Excursion to East Wickham and Bostall Heath. *Proceedings of the Geologists' Association*, 19, pp. 346 -347.
- <sup>3</sup> Priest, S. 1919. Excursion to Plumstead and Bostall Heath, March 22, 1919. *Proceedings of the Geologists' Association*, 30, p. 83.
- <sup>4</sup> Baker, H.A. & Priest, S. 1919. Excursion to East Wickham and Plumstead, September 6, 1919. *Proceedings of the Geologists' Association*, 30, p. 200.
- <sup>5</sup> Leach, A.L. 1929. Report of a Field Meeting at Plumstead and Bostall Heath July 13 1929. *Proceedings of the Geologists' Association*, 40, p. 390.

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**Old quarry**

Source: London's foundations, page 240 (Diana Clements, 2012)

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**Site Map**

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