

GLA 72 Monken Hadley Common, LIGS

London Borough of Barnet, West end TQ 252 973, East end TQ 270 968
Ownership: Vested in the Church Wardens of St Mary the Virgin

Along the length of Monken Hadley Common four different lithologies have been recognised but only two can readily be examined without excavating. Stanmore Gravel overlies London Clay at the west end of the Common. It can be seen in small erosion exposures within a pit on the open area of the Common. There is a spring line at approximately the junction with the London Clay which has carved a gully. There is a question of why the gravel is not underlain by Claygate beds at this point (120-125m).

At the east end of the Common the Claygate beds are shown between 85-95m and further west along the Stanmore Gravel Ridge around Arkley they are shown to underlie the gravel at about 125m. This would bear further investigation. At the east end of the Common the Junction of the London Clay and the Claygate beds is shown at c.85-90m and above that the junction with the Dollis Hill Gravel, at c.95m. Ponds at the low point and the stream 'cliffs' from bottom pond (Jack's Lake) provide exposures of London Clay but exposures of the other lithologies are difficult to find.

At the top of the hill the ground levels out and feels spongier. Sponginess and pebbles encountered by digging suggest presence of Dollis Hill gravel. The Claygate/London Clay junction may be inferred by the break of slope. The bridge over the Pymmes Brook is made of contorted bricks implying the Claygate beds were exploited locally for brick making. All three of these lithologies are encountered in the adjacent Trent Park (LB Enfield).

Access

Access at the western end is via the open space between Camlet Way and Hadley Common Road. There is a car park at the foot of Baker's Hill. London Loop Section 16 passes through the Common (see: [LL16-elstree-to-cockfosters-v2 \(innerlondonramblers.org.uk\)](http://innerlondonramblers.org.uk)). For the eastern end, Bus 384 runs along Northfield Road and Castlewood Road. Alight at the junction of Northfield Road and Castlewood Road by a road bridge over Pymmes Brook towards Jewish Community Secondary School. Immediately after crossing the brook, turn right onto Pymmes Brook Trail and onto the Common and the London Loop.



West end: Stanmore gravels beneath the acid-loving gorse surrounding old pit



East end: London Clay beneath the weir in Pymms Brook from Jack's Lake

Over-burnt bricks on the bridge over Pymms Brook from Jack's Lake – an indication of local brickmaking probably from the silty Claygate Member

Photos: Diana Clements

Site Map

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The Site Map shown edged in red is indicative only of the general location and not to be taken as accurately representing the entirety of Monkens Hadley Common