

<b>GLA 42 Kenwood House quarry, Hampstead Heath</b>	
Grid Reference: TQ 2685 8745	Site Type: Small quarry for Bagshot Sand (within larger area of Bagshot Sand on Hampstead Heath)
Site Area (hectares): 0.07	Current use: Fenced area behind recreational land
Site ownership: English Heritage	Borough: London Borough Camden
Field surveyors: Diana Clements Latest visit: Diana Clements	Date: October 2010 (LGAP launch) Date: May 2019
Current geological designation: RIGS	Other designation: Metropolitan SINC (Hampstead Heath)
<b>Site Map</b>	OS Topography © Crown Copyright



<b>Stratigraphy and Rock Types</b>	
Time Unit: Eocene	Rock Unit: Bagshot Formation Bracklesham Group
Rock Type: iron-rich sand	Details: predominantly fine sand showing stratification and locally iron Rich; iron-cemented in places.
Time Unit: Eocene	Rock Unit: London Clay Formation with Claygate Member at the top, Thames Group
Rock Type: Clay, silt, sand	Details: Fine, sandy, silty clay/ clayey silt, clay.

**Site Description**

Former quarry of Bagshot Formation exploited in the building of Kenwood House. This site close to Kenwood House would make an ideal location for cutting a face into the slope to create a conserved face and adding some interpretation. Unfortunately the most promising section of the slope that was stripped bare in the 1987 storm has been re-planted during 2010. (A second quarry can be seen within the gardeners' compound at TQ 2670 8735). In the meantime the small exposures on Sandy Heath around the natural ponds, purportedly floored by iron pan, provide an opportunity of minor observation of the Bagshot Sand. In 2011 an interpretation board was placed on Sandy Heath by LGP with a picture of the area being actively quarried in 1867. A spring line occurs at the base of the Bagshot Sand at the junction with the underlying Claygate Member at the top of the London Clay Formation. A lower spring line occurs at the base of the Claygate Member. These springs give rise to the Fleet, Westbourne and Tyburn Rivers flowing into the Thames and the Mutton Hall Brook flowing into the River Brent.

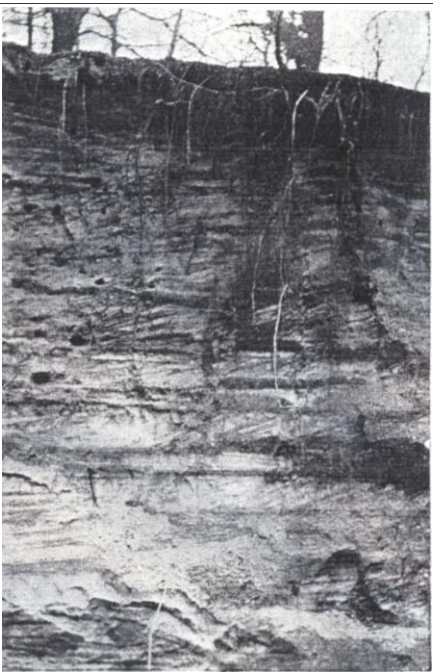
Rudler, F.W. 1913. <i>The Geology of Hampstead, Highgate and the Neighbourhood</i> . In: <i>Hampstead Heath: its Geology &amp; Natural History</i> . Hampstead Scientific Society, T. Fisher, Unwin.		
<b>Assessment of Site Value</b>		
<b>Geodiversity topic:</b> lithostratigraphy, sedimentology; geomorphology.		
<b>Access and Safety</b>		
<b>Aspect</b>	<b>Description</b>	
Safety of access	The area suggested for conservation is currently fenced off and inaccessible on a steep slope. Sandy Heath has footpaths through woodlands with areas of open grassland and the Bagshot Sand can be seen well adjacent to the largest pond	
Safety of exposure	Vegetation prevents slipping on the proposed site but large storms can bring down trees providing better exposure. Exposures on Sandy Heath are aided by 'people erosion'.	
Permission to visit	The proposed conservation site (shown as 'Old Quarry' on the map) requires permission from English Heritage at Kenwood House. Sandy Heath has open access.	
Current condition	The proposed site has had trees planted in 2010 so permission to clear might now be more difficult. Scree at base of slope could also be more problematical so any exposure created higher up the slope would require step access. A board showing a photograph of the face when operating, taken in 1913 could be an alternative.	
Current conflicting activities	Wildlife and aesthetic planting	
Restricting conditions	Fenced off area, vegetation	
Nature of exposure	1913 photograph shows a vertical quarry face.	
<b>Culture, Heritage &amp; Economic</b>		
<b>Aspect</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Rating</b>
Historic, archaeological & literary associations	Quarries within Kenwood are described in Rudler, 1913; extraction of sand on Sandy Heath by Sir Thomas Marion Wilson for construction of St. Pancras railway is described in many books on the heath and painted by Constable in 1867. There are a number of photographic records. More recently GA Guide 68, Itinerary 3 (see references) describes a guided walk around the Heath.	8
Aesthetic landscape	Footpaths through woods and heath used by local community; good views over London	9
History of Earth Sciences	Descriptions of field trips in Proceedings of the Geologists' Association but not much mention of Bagshot Sand, e.g. 1873, 1877, 1989, 1993; Also Lobley, 1889, Rudler, 1913	4
Economic geology	Extraction of sand (poor quality)	8
<b>GeoScientific Merit</b>		
Geomorphology	Highest hill in inner London (134m) with fine views to the south; One of several isolated hills remaining; part of the 'Northern Heights'	6
Sedimentology	A conserved section would potentially be the best exposure of Bagshot Sand in Greater London (only otherwise found at Harrow-on-the-Hill and Havering Ridge in north London and Wimbledon Common in south London). Although photographs exist showing bedding and cross stratification (Rudler, 1913), no written description has been found from Hampstead Heath. An iron-pan is described within the Bagshot Sands, underlying the ponds on Sandy Heath.	6
Palaeontology	None recorded from Bagshot Sands	0
Igneous/mineral/ Metamorphic Geology	None.	0
Structural Geology		
Lithostratigraphy	Hampstead Heath is an excellent location for identifying the different lithologies from clues in the landscape – spring lines,	6

	vegetation, small exposures. The Bagshot Sands lie above the Claygate Member of the London Clay Formation with the London Clay below. The same lithologies are described in Waterlow Park (GLA 64).	
Potential use	Research; education; on-site interpretation.	
Fragility	Natural overgrowing	
<b>Current Site Value</b>		
Community	Valuable woodland and green space.	8
Education	Visitors centre in Highgate Wood has a display on the local geology.	4
<b>Geodiversity value</b>		
RIGS:	Bagshot Sand was not represented in the first edition of <i>London's foundations</i> : this is the best location and warrants a permanent accessible exposure. The Heath in general is an excellent educational tool to demonstrate geomorphology, particularly the spring lines; access for local community.	6

**GLA 42 Kenwood House Quarry, Hampstead Heath**



Kenwood House Quarry



1913 section in Kenwood House Quarry



Sandy Heath exposures of Bagshot Sand  
Photo: Diana Clements