

GLA 54 Sundridge Park Manor Pulhamite grotto	
Grid Reference: TQ 4184 7063 (BR1 3FZ)	Site Type: Man-made artefact
Site Area (hectares): 0.09	Current use: Grounds of residential apartments
Site ownership: Sundridge Park Manor, Residential apartments run by agents City & Country: www.cityandcountry.co.uk .	Borough: London Borough of Bromley
Field surveyor: Diana Clements/Vernon Marks	Date: September 2010
Current geological designation: LIGS	Other designation: Listed in English Heritage's <i>Durability Guaranteed</i> ; Borough Grade I SINC (Sundridge Park Golf Course, Elmstead Woods and Lower Marvels Woods)
Site Map	OS Topography © Crown Copyright
Stratigraphy and Rock Types	
Time Unit: N/A	Rock Unit: N/A
Rock Type: N/A	Details: Artificial but incorporating blocks, probably of Tunbridge Wells sandstone (Early Cretaceous, Wealden, Hastings Beds) and making use of the immediately local Blackheath Beds (Harwich Formation, Eocene)
Site Description	
<p>The Pulhamite Grotto at Sundridge Park Manor was completed in 1874 and remains in good repair. It is a good, walk-in example of the artificial rockwork of the Pulham family incorporating blocks of sandstone amongst the artificial blocks to give it a more authentic look. Where the surface of the artificial blocks has eroded blocks of the local cemented Blackheath Beds can be seen but these are better displayed in an arch to the west of the manor house but still within the grounds. A temporary exposure between the two revealed in situ Blackheath Beds. There were former quarries for the Blackheath Beds within Sundridge Park and at Elmstead Lane and it would appear that this local material was used for creating the grotto.</p>	
Assessment of Site Value	
Geodiversity topic: Geology	

Access and Safety		
Aspect	Description	
Safety of access	Within private estate so permission needs to be sought	
Safety of exposure	Appears stable	
Permission to visit	Residential apartments run by the agents City & Country: www.cityandcountry.co.uk .	
Current condition	Unknown. The site has not been visited since it was converted to residential apartments. Some of the surface render is damaged but reveals blocks of local Blackheath Beds which is an asset.	
Current conflicting activities		
Restricting conditions	Access	
Nature of exposure	An artificial grotto set at the bottom of the slope above the flat lawns of the Manor gardens. A path winds up between the rockwork which is set within woodland	
Culture, Heritage & Economic		
Aspect	Description	Rating
Historic, archaeological & literary associations	Completed in 1874 and one of a number of examples of rockwork fashionable with the Victorians. Listed by English Heritage in <i>Durability Guaranteed</i> (Ref. to Pulham, c.1877). Featured in GA Guide 68, Itinerary 7, 2012	5
Aesthetic landscape	Very attractive 'surprise' inviting viewers to walk up the path	9
History of Earth Sciences	N/A	
Economic geology	N/A	
GeoScientific Merit		
Geomorphology	None	0
Sedimentology	Man-made rockwork using local materials	3-4
Palaeontology	Oyster fossils and other molluscs visible in the blocks of the cemented Blackheath Beds visible in places	2
Igneous/mineral/ Metamorphic Geology	None.	0
Structural Geology	None.	0
Lithostratigraphy	Ex-situ blocks of Blackheath Beds and probably Tunbridge Wells Sandstone incorporated within the structure	3
Potential use	Aesthetics; education;	
Fragility	Natural overgrowing; weathering/erosion	
Current Site Value		
Community	Limited access but hopefully enjoyed by the residents.	4
Education	In the context of explaining Pulhamite; examples of local 'rock'	4
Geodiversity value		
LIGS: worth conserving as an excellent example of the Pulhamite rockwork		3-4

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Photo: Steve Tracey