

16. Mousehold Stone Pit Company Quarry

The hummocky ground and steep slopes round Valley Drive are the remains of the Mousehold Stone Pit Company's quarry. It exploited the range of sands, gravels and silts of the Heath plateau. The area continued to be dug after 1884, as it lay outside the 'People's Park' and was privately owned. Quarrying was active through the inter-war years, and continued until the 1950s in the area of Borrowdale Drive, just south of the Heath.



1. The eastern end of the Heath was a busy scene of active quarrying in the 1930s. Reproduced from Ordnance Survey map 1:25,000, 1938.



2. The pitch and putt golf course was created on the site of an old gravel pit landscaped in the 1950s.

The Mousehold Stone Pit Co Ltd published a booklet in 1907, advertising their range of products and showing photos of three gravel pits. Their products would have been sorted by hand using sieves and shovels.

'The Mousehold Heath Stone Pit Company is now excavating a magnificent gravel... It is unrivalled material for laying roads, and making paths in gardens, plantations, etc'. The company also sold a fibrous loamy topsoil, 'a most valuable substance for market gardeners and private cultivators'.

SUPPLY:---	
Flag Turf, per 100.	Sharp Sand.
Crushed Grit.	Foundry Sand.
Fine Shingle.	Fine Gravel.
Road Shingle.	Garden Gravel.
Middle Shingle.	Binding Gravel.
Grit Shingle.	Silt.
Bricklayer's Sand.	

3. Excerpt from an old catalogue



4. Wheelbarrows, picks and spades in action in Stone Pit No. 1, 1907.



5. Stone Pit No. 3, 1907, showing Britannia Barracks in the distance. The edge of this quarry can still be seen along the south side of Valley Drive.



6. Glacial outwash gravels, seen on Mousehold, 1931. The slab of laminated clay near the spade may have been incorporated into the gravels in a frozen state.

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