

# Excursion to Hayes (Kent), Keston, and the Upper Valley of the Ravensbourne. Saturday, July 8th, 1916 - Geologists' Association excursion

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**Geologists' Association Circular No. 189. Session 1915-1916**



## **Hayes (Kent), Heston, and the Upper Valley of the Ravensbourne. Saturday, July 8th, 1916 (Transcription from: GA Circular No. 189. Session 1915-1916 p.2)**

**DIRECTOR:** A. L. LEACH, F.G.S.

**EXCURSION SECRETARY:** R. H. CHANDLER, Kearsbrook, Bedwell Road, Belvedere, Kent.

Outward train Cannon Streets 1,28 p.m.; London Bridge, 1.31; due at Hayes 2,16 p.m. Return fare, 1s. 10d.

Return train Hayes, 7.45 p.m. ; due at London Bridge, 8.33 p.m.

Tea at Keston. Walking distance, 5 to 6 miles.

The excursion will include the beautiful commons of Hayes and Keston on the Blackheath Beds, the escarpment of the Eocene Beds in the neighbourhood of West Wickham and Hayes, and the upper portion (normally dry) of the Ravensbourne Valley, with its tributary valleys incised upon the dip-slope of the Chalk. The bourne, which, after an interval of 33 years, has burst out about 1¼ miles above the ordinary source in the main valley, will also be visited. Attention will be directed to the two water-tables which exist in this district. The abnormal height of the water-level in the valley-floor has saturated the valley-gravel, given rise to the bourne, and inundated the large gravel-pit near Hayes. The upper water-table in the Tertiary Beds, 200 ft. higher, supplies a series of ponds at Reston. These drain northward into the Ravensbourne at Bromley.

From Hayes Station walk up the valley to see the pond, 8 to 10 acres in extent, in the water-logged gravel-pit ¼-mile south-west of the station, and a smaller pit directly in the course of the bourne. Proceed to the cross-roads north of West. Wickham Church. The uprise of the bourne occurs ¼-mile south-west of this point, at about 220 O.D. In a meadow water oozes out over a considerable area and becomes concentrated into a stream, which early in June had a volume of 1½ million gallons per day.

Walk up to West Wickham Church on an outlier of Thanet Sand, on which, at nearly 300 O.D., there is a mall permanent pond. From the outlier the tributary branches of the Ravensbourne Valley can be seen converging towards the funicular gap in the Tertiary escarpment,

Walk thence by a field path to Coney Hall and ascend the steep scarp of the Tertiary beds through a grove of ancient oak trees to Hayes Common, a characteristic illustration of the natural scenery of the Blackheath Beds.

After tea the ponds on Keston Common will be visited, These are fed by a spring, " Cæsar's Well," thrown out by Woolwich Beds at about 410 O.D. In the adjacent Holwood estate are remains of an important British earthwork commonly called " Csar's Camp." Return over Hayes Common to Hayes Station.

## REFERENCES.

Geological Survey Map. London (Drift Edition). Sheet 4.

1906. GRIFFIN, W. H,— "Geology of the Upper Ravensbourne Valley, with Notes on the Flora." *The South-Eastern Naturalist*, p, 50.

## Images

### Excursion to Hayes, Keston, and Upper Valley of the Ravensbourne, July 8th 1916



This bourn in the upper portion of the Ravensbourne Valley which is normally dry has burst out after an interval of 33 years.



This bourn in the upper portion of the Ravensbourne Valley which is normally dry has burst out after

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years.



Near cross roads  
north of West  
Wickham  
Church.



Near cross roads  
north of West  
Wickham  
Church.



Section of  
Blackheath  
Pebble Beds,  
Hayes Common.



Section of  
Blackheath  
Pebble Beds,  
Hayes Common.

## List of photographs

### Excursion to Hayes, Keston, and Upper Valley of the Ravensbourne, July 8th 1916

[Page 101 P804820](#) This bourne in the upper portion of the Ravensbourne Valley which is normally dry has burst out after an interval of 33 years. [Excursion to] Hayes, Keston, and Upper Valley of the Ravensbourne, July 8th 1916. Owing to the abnormal height of the water level in the valley floor it has saturated the valley gravel and given rise to the bourne. Added note: This pond 8 to 10 acres in extent near Hayes Station now fills the gravel pit and is an offshoot from the bourne.

[Page 101 P804821](#) This bourne in the upper portion of the Ravensbourne Valley which is normally dry has burst out after an interval of 33 years. [Excursion to] Hayes, Keston, and Upper Valley of the Ravensbourne, July 8th 1916. Owing to the abnormal height of the water level in the valley floor it has saturated the valley gravel and given rise to the bourne. Added note: This pit which is in the direct course of the bourne is now filled with water.

[Page 101 P804822](#) Near cross roads north of West Wickham Church. The uprise of the bourne occurs 1/4 of a mile south west of this point at about 220 feet OD. [Excursion to] Hayes, Keston, and Upper Valley of the Ravensbourne, July 8th 1916.

[Page 101 P804823](#) Near cross roads north of West Wickham Church. The uprise of the bourne occurs 1/4 of a mile south west of this point at about 220 feet OD. [Excursion to] Hayes, Keston, and Upper Valley of the Ravensbourne, July 8th 1916.

[Page 103 P804824](#) Section of Blackheath Pebble Beds, Hayes Common. [Excursion to] Hayes, Keston, and Upper Valley of the Ravensbourne, July 8th 1916.

[Page 103 P804825](#) Section of Blackheath Pebble Beds, Hayes Common. [Excursion to] Hayes, Keston, and Upper Valley of the Ravensbourne, July 8th 1916.

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