

# Excursion to Reculvers, Herne Bay. Saturday, July 20th, 1912 - Geologists' Association excursion

From Earthwise

[Jump to navigation](#) [Jump to search](#)



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## Contents

- [1 Geologists' Association Circular No. 146. Session 1911-1912. p.5-6](#)
- [2 Excursion to Reculvers, Herne Bay. Saturday, July 20th, 1912. \(Transcription from GA Circular No. 146. Session 1911-1912. p.5-6.\)](#)
- [3 Images](#)
  - [3.1 Excursion to Reculvers, Herne Bay, July 20th 1912](#)
- [4 List of photographs](#)
  - [4.1 Excursion to Reculvers, Herne Bay, July 20th 1912](#)

**Geologists' Association Circular No. 146. Session 1911-1912. p.5-6**



## **Excursion to Reculvers, Herne Bay. Saturday, July 20th, 1912. (Transcription from GA Circular No. 146. Session 1911-1912. p.5-6.)**

(To which members of the Selborne Society are invited.)

**DIRECTOR:** W. WHITAKER, F.R.S.

**EXCURSION SECRETARY:** DOUGLAS LEIGHTON, 108, St. Julian's Farm Road, West Norwood, S.E.

By 9.10 train from Victoria (S.E. & C.R.), due Herne Bay 10.41. To obtain cheap return tickets, price 7s., meet Mr. Leighton in Main Line Booking Office not later than 9 a.m.

Walk at once to the coast and along to the outcrop of the beds below the London,. Clay as quickly as possible, so as to have time for the examination of the cliffs from the shore.

The successive uprisings of the Oldhaven Beds, the Woolwich Beds, and the Thanet Beds will be studied, and the great difference between those divisions of the Lower London Tertiaries (especially the Woolwich Beds), as shown in this eastern part of Kent, from their composition near London will be remarked on. In the Herne Bay Reculvers section all three divisions are of marine type, all yielding marine fossils, and there is practically no division between the Woolwich and the Thanet Beds., All, too, are of a sandy character, the Thanet alone containing clayey beds (hardly seen here, where the base is not reached), whereas near London the Thanet is a sandy division. Moreover the Thanet Beds here are very fossiliferous, whereas near London fossils are very rare in them.

It is hoped that some of the peculiar selenite crystals of the Oldhaven Beds, which occur only at one spot, may be found. The fine sand has been caught up between the plates of selenite, quite altering the appearance of the mineral.

The journey ends at the little hamlet of Reculvers, where the interesting old church and the remains of the Roman wall can be seen.

The return will be made along the top of the cliff, and the capping of palaeolithic gravel will be seen in places. The slipping of the London Clay cliff and the loss of land will also be noticed, as well as the

formation of the little chine, the Oldhaven Gap of the old map.

Tea will be had at the Albany Restaurant, Herne Bay, with eggs 1s. 4d., meat tea 1s. 6d.

There are many sections worth photographing.

Return train 8 p.m., due Victoria 9.53.

Total walking distance about 8 miles.

## REFERENCES.

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New Ordnance Survey Map, Sheet 273.

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1860. WHITAKER, W.—"On the Lower London Tertiaries of Kent." *Quart. Journ. Geol. Soc.*, vol. xxii.

1872 WHITAKER, W.—"The Geology of the London Basin." *Mem. Geol. Surv*, 1883.

GARDNER, J. S.—"On the Lower Eocene Section between Reculvers and Herne Bay." *Quart. Journ. Geol. Soc.*, vol. xxxix.

1885. GARDNER, J. S.—*Proc. Geol. Assoc.*, vol. ix, pp. 169-173.

1894. Excursion to Herne Bay." *Pro. Geol. Assoc.*, vol. xiii, p. 375, price 1s.

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## Images

### Excursion to Reculvers, Herne Bay, July 20th 1912



London Clay  
capping  
Oldhaven Beds,  
westward of  
Oldhaven Gap.



London Clay  
capping  
Oldhaven Beds,  
westward of  
Oldhaven Gap.



This peculiar  
ridge of rock  
running out  
diagonally to sea  
near the  
Bishopstone  
Coastguard  
Station is the  
top bed of the  
Thanets.



Blocks of  
hardened sand,  
weathered out  
from the  
Woolwich and  
Reading beds  
near Oldhaven  
Gap.



•  
Cliff of Woolwich and Reading beds capped by London Clay, east of Oldhaven Gap. The Woolwich and Reading beds seen here have much the appearance of the Thanet Sands as seen at Erith and Charlton.



•  
Oldhaven Gap.



•  
Oldhaven Gap looking north or seaward. The Oldhaven Beds which at Charlton and Erith are estuarine beds here exhibit

marine forms of life such would obtain in shallow seas.



The peculiar selenite crystals from the Oldhaven Beds, Herne Bay.



The Woolwich Beds consist wholly of sand with no shelly or mottled clays.



The top part of the Thanet Sand contains a stony layer consisting of large tabular masses about 8 inches thick many of which show furoid

markings and occasionally casts of marine shells.



The higher part of the shore between Oldhaven Gap and Reculvers is thickly strewn with these slabs which have been weathered out of the cliffs which consist only of the upper sand.



The higher part of the shore between Oldhaven Gap and Reculvers is thickly strewn with these slabs which have been weathered out of the cliffs which consist only of the upper sand.



- Section near Reculvers showing the foreshore strewn with the blocks of sandstone weathered out from the top of the Thanet Beds.



- Section eastwards of Oldhaven Gap. This shows where the Thanet Beds are coming to the surface. The Gap seen in the centre is an illustration of the cutting through from springs at a high level.



- Section



eastwards of  
Oldhaven Gap.  
The waste of  
coast from  
Herne Bay to  
Reculver has  
been extremely  
rapid but is now  
checked in  
exposed places  
by groynes.



View from the  
Roman Wall at  
Reculver looking  
E over the  
marshes.



Reculvers  
Church.



Reculvers  
Church.



• Roman Wall of Regulbium (now Reculver). The wall is built on the Thanet Sand, the foundations being a layer of beach pebbles on which the wall formed mainly of flints was raised.



• Roman Wall of Regulbium (now Reculver). The wall is built on the Thanet Sand, the foundations being a layer of beach pebbles on which the wall formed mainly of flints was raised.



• [Roman walls].



[Roman walls].



The wall is mostly built of local materials, the squared ashlar facing stones coming from the top bed of the Thanet Sand and the flints from the Chalk.



Gravel capping the London Clay cliffs at Herne Bay, containing Palaeolithic implements.

## List of photographs

Excursion to Reculvers, Herne Bay, July 20th 1912

- [Page 117 P805558](#) London Clay capping Oldhaven Beds, westward of Oldhaven Gap. Excursion to Reculvers, Herne Bay, July 20th 1912. Looking westward in direction of dip. The clay contains many septarian nodules and much pyritized wood, quantities of which are found in the shingle on the beach. Added note: Oldhaven Beds; London Clay. [Bottom to top.] East [on left hand side of photograph] West [on right].
- [Page 117 P805559](#) London Clay capping Oldhaven Beds, westward of Oldhaven Gap. Excursion to Reculvers, Herne Bay, July 20th 1912. Looking westward in direction of dip. The Oldhaven Beds consist of compact fine drab coloured sand with frequent pockets and layers of marine shells, the junction with the London Clay being even and sharply defined. Added note: Oldhaven Beds; London Clay. [Bottom to top.] East [on left hand side of photograph] West [on right].
- [Page 117 P805560](#) This peculiar ridge of rock running out diagonally to sea near the Bishopstone Coastguard Station is the top bed of the Thanets. Excursion to Reculvers, Herne Bay, July 20th 1912.
- [Page 117 P805561](#) Blocks of hardened sand, weathered out from the Woolwich and Reading beds near Oldhaven Gap. Excursion to Reculvers, Herne Bay, July 20th 1912.
- [Page 119 P805562](#) Cliff of Woolwich and Reading beds capped by London Clay, east of Oldhaven Gap. The Woolwich and Reading beds seen here have much the appearance of the Thanet Sands as seen at Erith and Charlton. Excursion to Reculvers, Herne Bay, July 20th 1912. East [on left hand side of photograph] West [on right].
- [Page 119 P805563](#) Oldhaven Gap. Excursion to Reculvers, Herne Bay, July 20th 1912. The banks of this ravine differ greatly in character, the western being almost perpendicular while the eastern is an uneven slope of slipped London Clay. The western dip though slight is probably the cause of this. East [on left hand side of photograph] West [on right].
- [Page 119 P805564](#) Oldhaven Gap looking north or seaward. The Oldhaven Beds which at Charlton and Erith are estuarine beds here exhibit marine forms of life such would obtain in shallow seas. Excursion to Reculvers, Herne Bay, July 20th 1912. West [on left hand side of photograph] East [on right].
- [Page 119 P805565](#) The peculiar selenite crystals from the Oldhaven Beds, Herne Bay. Excursion to Reculvers, Herne Bay, July 20th 1912. The fine sand has been [?] between the plates of selenite, quite altering the appearance of the mineral. [Printed illustration.] Selenite crystals from the Oldhaven Beds, Herne Bay. These groups of selenite crystals are permeated with sand so that the usual transparency is lost.
- [Page 121 P805566](#) The Woolwich Beds consist wholly of sand with no shelly or mottled clays. Excursion to Reculvers, Herne Bay, July 20th 1912. They have no definite bottom bed neither distinctive green sand or pebbles. Consequently it is difficult to fix the plane of division with the Thanet Beds. Added note: Thanet Beds; Woolwich and Reading; Oldhaven; London Clay. [Bottom to top].
- [Page 121 P805567](#) The top part of the Thanet Sand contains a stony layer consisting of large tabular masses about 8 inches thick many of which show fucoid markings and occasionally casts of marine shells. Excursion to Reculvers, Herne Bay, July 20th 1912. Added note: Stony layer at the top of the Thanet Beds; Woolwich and Reading. [Bottom to top].
- [Page 121 P805568](#) The higher part of the shore between Oldhaven Gap and Reculvers is thickly strewn with these slabs which have been weathered out of the cliffs which consist only of the upper sand. Excursion to Reculvers, Herne Bay, July 20th 1912. The lower beds which consist of dark green muddy sands and containing large numbers of *Cyprina morrissii* and other marine shells are seen on the shore at low water.

- [Page 121 P805569](#) The higher part of the shore between Oldhaven Gap and Reculvers is thickly strewn with these slabs which have been weathered out of the cliffs which consist only of the upper sand. Excursion to Reculvers, Herne Bay, July 20th 1912. The lower beds which consist of dark green muddy sands and containing large numbers of *Cyprina morrissii* and other marine shells are seen on the shore at low water.
- [Page 123 P805570](#) Section near Reculvers showing the foreshore strewn with the blocks of sandstone weathered out from the top of the Thanet Beds. Excursion to Reculvers, Herne Bay, July 20th 1912. Added note: Thanet Sands; Woolwich and Reading; Oldhaven Beds; London Clay. [Bottom to top].
- [Page 123 P805571](#) Section eastwards of Oldhaven Gap. This shows where the Thanet Beds are coming to the surface. The Gap seen in the centre is an illustration of the cutting through from springs at a high level. Excursion to Reculvers, Herne Bay, July 20th 1912. Added note: Thanet Beds; Woolwich and Reading; Oldhaven Beds; London Clay. [Bottom to top].
- [Page 123 P805572](#) Section eastwards of Oldhaven Gap. The waste of coast from Herne Bay to Reculver has been extremely rapid but is now checked in exposed places by groynes. Excursion to Reculvers, Herne Bay, July 20th 1912.
- [Page 123 P805573](#) View from the Roman Wall at Reculver looking E over the marshes. Excursion to Reculvers, Herne Bay, July 20th 1912. In Roman times this was a tidal estuary and navigable down to comparatively recent times. This old channel of the Wantsum is now a marsh three miles wide and well protected from the sea by a strong sea wall or bank. Added note: Site of Roman town Regulbium. [Arrows indicate location of the sea wall, mid-left of photograph, and Richborough distant left.].
- [Page 125 P805574](#) Reculvers Church. Excursion to Reculvers, Herne Bay, July 20th 1912. In the reign of Henry VIII Reculvers Church was nearly one mile from the sea but at the beginning of the 19th century it was abandoned as a place of worship on account of its insecurity, and it would no doubt have disappeared if the cliffs had not been protected artificially from further destruction.
- [Page 125 P805575](#) Reculvers Church. Excursion to Reculvers, Herne Bay, July 20th 1912. In the reign of Henry VIII Reculvers Church was nearly one mile from the sea but at the beginning of the 19th century it was abandoned as a place of worship on account of its insecurity, and it would no doubt have disappeared if the cliffs had not been protected artificially from further destruction.
- [Page 125 P805576](#) Roman Wall of Regulbium (now Reculver). The wall is built on the Thanet Sand, the foundations being a layer of beach pebbles on which the wall formed mainly of flints was raised. Excursion to Reculvers, Herne Bay, July 20th 1912.
- [Page 125 P805577](#) Roman Wall of Regulbium (now Reculver). The wall is built on the Thanet Sand, the foundations being a layer of beach pebbles on which the wall formed mainly of flints was raised. Excursion to Reculvers, Herne Bay, July 20th 1912.
- [Page 127 P805578](#) [Roman walls]. Excursion to Reculvers, Herne Bay, July 20th 1912. The walls on the outside of the town or castrum are bare to the very foundations having been used as a quarry, almost all the squared sandstone blocks and portions of the core of the walls have been carried away for use elsewhere.
- [Page 127 P805579](#) [Roman walls]. Excursion to Reculvers, Herne Bay, July 20th 1912. The walls on the outside of the town or castrum are bare to the very foundations having been used as a quarry, almost all the squared sandstone blocks and portions of the core of the walls have been carried away for use elsewhere.
- [Page 127 P805580](#) The wall is mostly built of local materials, the squared ashlar facing stones coming from the top bed of the Thanet Sand and the flints from the Chalk. Excursion to Reculvers, Herne Bay, July 20th 1912.

[Page 127 P805581](#) Gravel capping the London Clay cliffs at Herne Bay, containing Palaeolithic implements. Excursion to Reculvers, Herne Bay, July 20th 1912.

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Category:

- [Geologists' Association excursions](#)

## Navigation menu

### Personal tools

- Not logged in
- [Talk](#)
- [Contributions](#)
- [Log in](#)
- [Request account](#)

### Namespaces

- [Page](#)
- [Discussion](#)

### Variants

### Views

- [Read](#)
- [Edit](#)
- [View history](#)
- [PDF Export](#)

### More

### Search

### Navigation

- [Main page](#)
- [Recent changes](#)
- [Random page](#)

- [Help about MediaWiki](#)

## Tools

- [What links here](#)
- [Related changes](#)
- [Special pages](#)
- [Permanent link](#)
- [Page information](#)
- [Cite this page](#)
- [Browse properties](#)

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- [About Earthwise](#)
- [Disclaimers](#)

