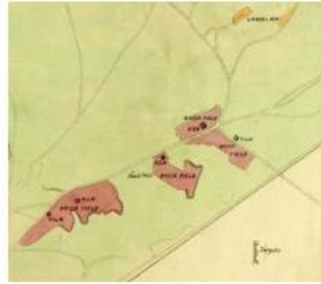


## 18. Beech Drive Hills and Hollows

The land round Beech Drive is a favourite trail-biking area, with its steep hills and hollows. This is a legacy of centuries of digging for brickearth, sand and gravel. Quarrying stopped in the area north of the drive in the 1880s, when this part of the Heath became a public park, although it continued into the 20th century on land to the south.

There is a massive mound in the woods south of Beech Drive. This is the butts for a rifle range used by the army in Victorian times, before the area became thickly wooded. It was built from quarry spoil.



1. Several brick pits and gravel pits are marked north of Beech Drive on this 1881 map. The butts mound can be seen on the right.



2. The drinking fountain, 1905, with the butts mound in the background.

A borehole was made in the late 19th century to supply water to a public drinking fountain (demolished 1971). It was 76 m (250 ft) deep, and yielded 3637 litres (800 gallons) per hour of fresh water from the chalk bedrock. The fountain had a thatched roof, and used to stand where the 'Welcome to Mousehold Heath' panel now stands.



3. The Fountain sports ground is the landscaped site of a former brick field.



4. Coarse, torrent gravels are exposed beneath old quarry spoil in a bank south of Beech Drive. They were laid down as part of the Mousehold Heath glacial outwash plain.



5. The butts of the Mousehold rifle range, where the targets were set up. The firing positions were 700 yards (640 m) away up Valley Drive, next to Heartsease Lane.

### Photo credits

1. Courtesy Norfolk Record Office N/EN 26/1, 2. Courtesy Norwich City Council, 3., 4., and 5. © Tim Holt-Wilson.