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THE GEOLOGICAL HERITAGE OF BANHAM, SOUTH NORFOLK: CIDER, BRICKS AND TUNNEL VISION

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ABSTRACT

The chalk bedrock, Quaternary sediments and soils of the Banham district of South Norfolk had a profound influence on its industrial and social wellbeing for hundreds of years. The settlement's pivotal role in the development of cider in Norfolk, which dates from the early thirteenth century, was due largely to the rich loamy soils. Lime burning and gravel extraction were common, and the availability of clay-rich deposits of glacial origin led to the manufacture of bricks (which may be traced back to the eighteenth century) and to related kiln-based industries such as tile, drainpipe, chimney and cider flagon making.

Geological sections are few and far between in this relatively flat and low-lying landscape. But when worked-out nineteenth-century brickearth pits at Hunt's Corner, immediately west of Banham, were transformed in ca 1914 into the ornamental 'Garden of Eden', a 'Tunnel of Love' was excavated through a baulk between two of the pits; the tunnel now provides a rare opportunity to examine the glacially related fluvial and lacustrine Banham Beds and the Lowestoft Till dating from the Middle Pleistocene Anglian Stage (Marine Isotopes Stage 12). A brief description of the exposures of this important part of Norfolk's rich Quaternary geological archive is given here.

THE GEOMORPHOLOGY OF THE DERSINGHAM BOG NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE, WEST NORFOLK

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ABSTRACT

It is suggested here that the 'cliffs' at Dersingham originated in pre-Devensian times and that their present form has resulted from periglacial processes rather than from coastal erosion during a former marine highstand. The prominent flat surface above the scarp faces may be a cryoplanation terrace. This terrace is possibly partly concealed by coversands containing ventificated material.



**IRON PAN SEDIMENTS IN WEST NORFOLK: NEW SECTIONS AND
SPECULATIONS REGARDING THEIR ORIGIN AS A
BUILDING MATERIAL**

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ABSTRACT

Three temporary sections in which iron pan deposits are present are described and located. Iron pan deposits used as building materials in West Norfolk may have been exploited opportunistically, during the digging of dykes, ditches and ponds. This hypothesis would explain the apparent lack of source excavations, of the type associated with more systematic extraction.

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