

It will also fund research into the planting schemes at Madeira Walk to understand the original planting schemes and to assess whether any of the planting and tree roots might be damaging the structures. Guidance for future planting will then be drawn up in consultation with volunteer groups.

Find out more

Pulhamite specialist and architect Chris Garrand is currently undertaking detailed surveys of the Pulhamite at Madeira Walk and Winterstoke Gardens. There will be opportunities to hear from Chris about his initial findings over the coming months.

Find out more and keep up to date with the latest on Ramsgate's Heritage Action Zone online at:
bit.ly/RamsgateHeritageActionZone

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Cover Image: Pulhamite rockery in Ramsgate

Other Images: Views showing Pulhamite around the Albion Hill area



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Pulhamite

Protecting Ramsgate's nationally important rockwork gardens for future generations



Rescuing Ramsgate's Rock Gardens

Ramsgate holds a nationally important collection of 'Pulhamite' rockwork gardens and landscaping across five locations – Madeira Walk, Winterstoke Gardens, West Cliff Chine, East Cliff Chine and the arches of the Royal Parade. The entire collection of Pulhamite rockwork gardens and structures are listed at Grade II on the National Heritage List for England, ensuring that the Pulhamite is recognised and protected for future generations.



What is Pulhamite?

Pulhamite was a system of artificial rock-building developed in the 1840s by James Pulham (the second of four generations), key to which was a proprietary render that was marketed as Pulham's Portland Stone Cement. The render was applied to a masonry core or backing structure to produce texture and colour variations in imitation of natural rock in order to create the elaborate gardens complete with waterfalls, chasms, steps, arches, recesses and coastal cliffs that we see today. In Ramsgate these fashionable bespoke landscapes were commissioned between the 1890's (Madeira Walk and the Royal Parade) and 1920's-30's (Winterstoke Gardens, West and East Cliff Chines) and designed to work with the natural geology to create a wide range of artificial landscapes of engineering, botanical, architectural and visual interest.

Conserving an important part of Ramsgate's heritage

The Pulhams prided themselves on the strength and workmanship of their products, but all are now in need of some repair and restoration. The Ramsgate Coastal Community Team, a Ramsgate Heritage Action Zone partner, was successful in bidding for £50,000 from the Coastal Revival Fund (backed by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government) at the end of 2018. This funding will pay for a condition survey of the Pulhamite to understand what repairs are needed at the five locations, to keep them safe and accessible to the public and residents.