

BENSON'S BOREHOLE

By

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Visitor's on Lundy who walk from the Aerogenerator towards the Rocket Pole may stumble upon a small concrete slab into which an upright wooden marker stick was originally fixed (NGR SS13484380).

The borehole which this slab covers was planned to cut vertically through solid granite for 500 feet to below sea-level. The origin of this unusual feature is described by the then agent, Felix Gade, in his book *My Life on Lundy*: "When John Harman had been about sixteen years of age, an old Spanish metal-diviner, Señor Rementeria, told him of a treasure buried 200 or more feet down in the heart of Lundy, and John had very much more than half believed him. The treasure had supposedly been deposited by way of a cave, presumably excavated by man, in the cliff face on the south coast. One project which John was determined to carry out was to drill at the spot indicated by Señor Rementeria, which was marked out by short wooden stakes driven a foot or more into the ground" ... "John (was a) rather impressionable youth" who the following year travelled to Bilbao to discover that Rementeria lived in a hovel adjacent to mineworkings where he eked out a living extracting minerals. Undaunted, John, on leaving for the war from which he was not to return, persuaded his father to drill on the site.

Martin Harman was able to honour this promise when, in 1953, he commissioned John's younger brother, Albion, who was by this time the Managing Director of a drilling company, to undertake the work. Albion sent Mr Salisbury Jones and David Lickford in an Aeravon aircraft with the entire diamond drilling rig and work took about a week to reach a depth of 230 feet.

No treasure or cave was found but the 1 inch diameter drilled cores were placed sequentially on corrugated iron sheets in Millcombe cellar enabling Dr John Dollar to make the analysis shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Dollar's log of the dried core in G1 Granite, from South-west Field, Lundy.

Depth	Description	Thickness
0 - 20'	Absent	20'
20' - 21'3"	Basic Dyke	1'3"
21'3" - 40'3"	G1 Granite, weathered felspars	19'
40'3" - 44'9"	Leucocratic microgranite (G3, aplite) - sharp contacts with granite above and below	4'6"
44'9" - 52'6"	G1 Granite	7'9"
52'6" - 54'2"	G1 Granite with tourmaline clots	1'8"
54'2" - 55'8"	G1 Granite — no tourmaline	1'6"
At 55'8"	two small pink garnets in G1	—
55'8" - 58'4"	G1 Granite with rare tourmaline	2'8"
58'4" - 65'4"	G1 Granite with many garnets; rare tourmaline	7'
At 65'4"	small tourmaline clots in G1	—
65'4" - 90'5"	G1 Granite with garnets; rare tourmaline	25'1"
90'5" - 97'2"	G1 Granite; no garnets or tourmaline visible	6'9"
97'2" - 105'9"	G1 Granite with garnets but no tourmaline	8'7"
105'9" - 127'10"	G1 Granite with garnets; rare tourmaline	22'1"
127'10"-130'10"	G1 Granite with garnets; rare tourmaline. Greater weathering than above — near a joint plane?	3'