



Beckton Ski Slope. Skiing on Beckton Alps during a spell of snow. 14 Feb 1991
Image courtesy of Newham Archives and Local Studies Library

Newham heritage fact: Beckton Alp

This is a photograph of Beckton Alps dry ski slope.

When Beckton Gasworks opened in 1870 the surrounding area wasn't built up so they would pile the toxic ash waste onto the open land around the site. The piles slowly became large hills.

In 1949 the Gasworks were the largest in the world and employed 4,500 people but by 1970 only 100 remained and the works closed.

The Gasworks became derelict but the hills of waste were developed for new buildings. Only one remained and it is still there, local residents nicknamed it the 'Beckton Alp'.

In 1989 one of the mounds was turned into a dry ski slope where people from all over London could come and ski. In this photograph you can see real snow.

The ski slope closed in 2001 but the alp still remains. The ground is too contaminated to build on so its future remains uncertain.

Answer the following questions.

1. When did Beckton Gasworks open?
2. How many people did the Gasworks employ in 1949?
3. What is the nickname of the last hill of waste?

True or False.

4. You can see real snow in this photograph.

True

False

5. The ski slope is still there.

True

False

Finish the sentence.

In my country when we play sport we go to

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