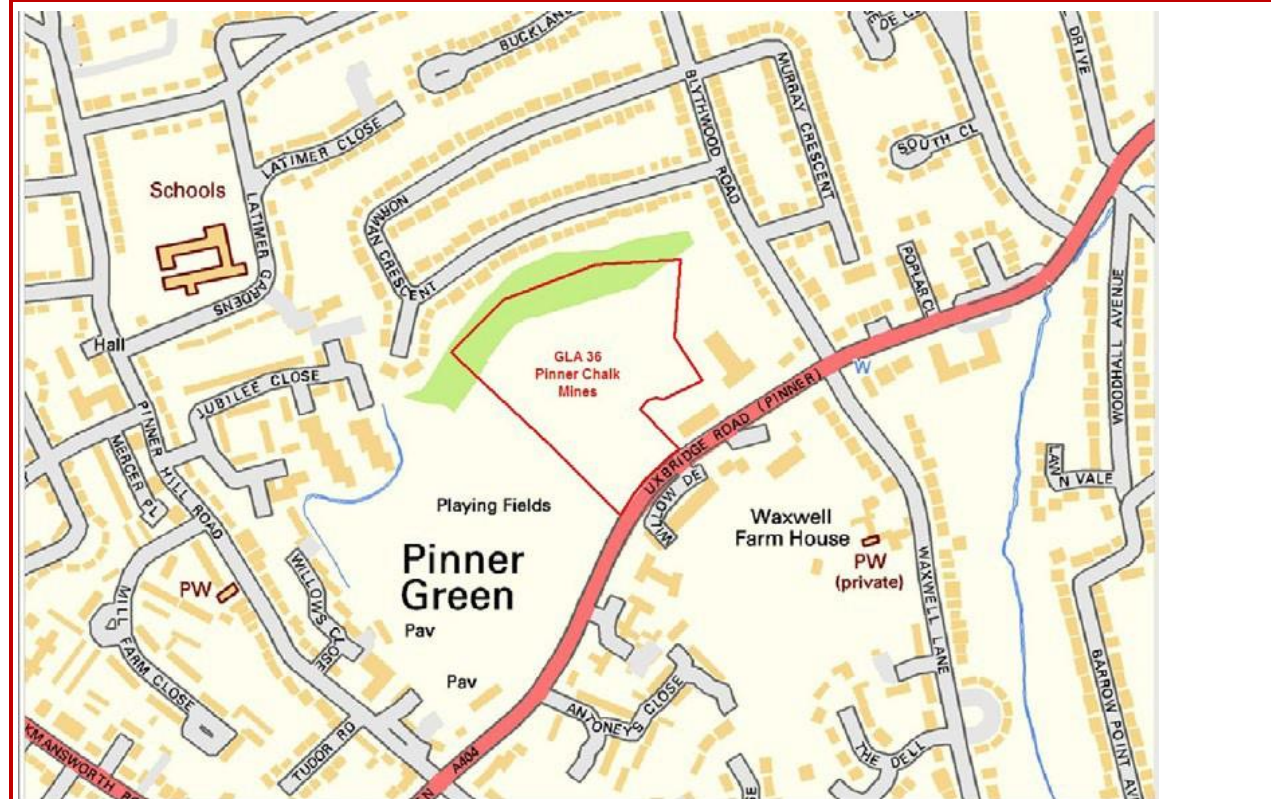


## GLA 36 Pinner Chalk Mines

Grid Reference: TQ 1154 9048	Site Type: Former mine workings
Site Area (Hectares): 3.44	Current use: mine is under recreational land
Site ownership: London Borough of Harrow	Borough: London Borough of Harrow
Field surveyor: Harrow & Hillingdon Geol. Soc. Revisited (surface): Allan Wheeler	Date: November 2011 Date: April 2019
Current geological designation: RIGS	Other designation: Borough Grade II SINC (Grim's Ditch and Pinner Green)
<b>Site Map</b>	
OS Topography © Crown Copyright	



### Stratigraphy and Rock Types

Time Units: Paleocene-Eocene	Rock Units: Upnor and Reading Formations (Lambeth Group)
Rock Types: puddingstone	Details: Hertfordshire Puddingstone in situ in mine shaft; Reading Formation sand at surface
Time Units: Late Cretaceous	Rock Units: Chalk Group
Rock Types: Chalk with flints	Details: Seaford Chalk Formation, White Chalk Sub-group

### Site Description

Pinner Chalk Mines extend over a large area, with mixed extraction methods recorded from the 14<sup>th</sup> century. Access to the majority is no longer possible, and this survey is of the 1830-70 'Dingles' mine. When accessible, it is one of the few locations still existing in London where the chalk can be examined without being masked by vegetation. It is also important for the extremely rare *in situ* Hertfordshire Puddingstone that can be seen in the shaft to the mine and in small roof falls. Its presence allowed the quarrymen to utilise the Chalk almost to the top as it provided a hard roof. There are small exposures of Reading Formation sand near the top of the mineshaft.

### Assessment of Site Value

**Geodiversity topic:** Sedimentology; Palaeotology; Lithostratigraphy;

### Access and Safety

Aspect	Description
Safety of access	Public footpath steep/slippery in places. Mine shaft enclosed in security fence with locked cover.

Safety of exposure	Accessible galleries with pillar and stall in good condition (only two roof falls in last 160 years, one caused by contractors during construction of latest shaft access cover). Access currently suspended for Health & Safety reasons.	
Permission to visit	By request to Council Licensee.	
Current condition	Unknown, but good when last accessed (early 2000s).	
Current conflicting activities	None	
Restricting conditions	Availability of Caving Group that provides means of access by 35m caving ladder with safety harness.	
Nature of exposure	Old mine workings.	
<b>Culture, Heritage &amp; Economic</b>		
<b>Aspect</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Rating</b>
Historic, archaeological & literary associations	Well documented with summary and references in Pinner Local History Society's publication "Pinner Chalk Mines" ISBN 0 9507955 6 9 and Harrow & Hillingdon Geological Society's "A guide to Pinner Chalk Mine" ISBN 0 9520325 0 3. It is described at Itinerary 2 in Clements, 2012	10
Aesthetic landscape	Potential for Interpretation Board, subject to survey of surface safety and vandalism history.	3
History of Earth Sciences		
Economic geology	Local economic importance	8
<b>GeoScientific Merit</b>		
Geomorphology		
Sedimentology	Chalk with flint and overlying puddingstone	8
Palaeontology	Chalk with flint	7
Igneous/mineral/ Metamorphic Geology		
Structural Geology		
Lithostratigraphy	Chalk and puddingstone succession	8
Potential use	Continued research; Higher and further education; School education.	
Fragility	Roof potentially, as in most mines, due to external influences. Surface overgrown and subject to vandalism.	
<b>Current Site Value</b>		
Community	Under recreational space access.	6
Education	Long-standing and continuing research, education and public interest. Training 'ground' for Fire Service and Met. Police. Included in GA Guide 68, Itinerary 2 (see references).	9
<b>Geodiversity value</b>		
RIGS: Rare regional example of 'deep' chalk mining with well-documented history and wide educational value. It is important scientifically for its exceedingly rare <i>in situ</i> exposure of Hertfordshire Pudding stone. Fairly good exposures of Lambeth Group (mainly sand with some clay) on the surface (The Dingles) above Pinner Chalk Mine at TQ 1160 9052 and of the former Pinner Hill Farm at TQ 1102 9076. There is a plaque on wall on farm building nearest road.		9



**GLA 36 Pinner Chalk Mines**



Pinner Chalk Mine visit in 1999



The Dingles. Reading Formation sand.  
Photo: Allan Wheeler, March 2019



Hertfordshire Puddingstone from roof collapse