



# Highbarns Chalk Mines

## Emergency Advice for Householders

### Introduction

A geological survey focused on a relatively limited area around the junction of Pond Road, Highbarns and East Green has revealed evidence of old chalk workings. This ground investigation work followed a partial ground collapse in a garden (now established to have been caused by a shaft collapse) in June 2007.

The chalk mines that have been discovered are located around the road junction of Highbarns, Pond Road and East Green.

The area that we have investigated so far extends 50 metres around the point where we believe the access shaft was.

Dacorum Borough Council has been co-ordinating work to apply for funding to carry out further geological surveys around the area with a view to establishing the full extent of the mine and establishing a way forward.

### Your safety

Chalk mines have been around for a long period of time without affecting the safety of buildings built on or near them. Nevertheless Dacorum Borough Council's building control officers are continuing to carry out visual checks of properties in the area.

To help us in this work please make sure that you let us know as soon as possible if you notice any evidence of movements of the ground or buildings on your property or anywhere else within the vicinity of Pond Road, Highbarns or East Green.

#### Things you should report might include:

- Holes, depressions or areas of cracking developing in gardens or roads
- Cracks developing on buildings
- Walls beginning to lean or floors tilt
- Windows or doors becoming stuck for no obvious reason
- Sudden damage to buried services pipes such as drains, gas or water mains

**If you own your home or rent it privately please call Dacorum Borough Council as soon as possible if you notice any signs of movement with your property.**

☎ 01442 228907 (Building Control)

**If you are a housing tenant please call Housing repairs:**

☎ 0800 0186050

**Both of the above services offer out-of-hours support in an emergency.**

**Other useful contacts over the page**

# Home emergencies: Who to contact ..

Type of problem	What to do	Who to tell	Contact details
If you smell gas or are worried about gas safety	Put out any naked flames Contact the 24 hour emergency line Keep well away from the area Do not use any electrical switches or something which may cause sparks	<b>National Gas</b>	☎ 0800 111 999 www.nationalgrid.com
If notice a water leak or a burst pipe in your local area		<b>Veolia Water (Three Valleys)</b>	☎ 0800 376 5325 ('Leakspotter' hotline) leakspotter@central.veoliawater.co.uk www.3valleys.co.uk
If there is a problem with a drain or sewer		<b>Thames Water Utilities</b>	☎ 08459 200800 www.thameswater.co.uk
If there is a power cut or problem with your electricity supply	Check whether your neighbours have also lost their supply. If your neighbours don't have power, call the 24 hour emergency line.	<b>EDF Energy Networks</b>	☎ 0800 7838838 www.edfenergy.com
If you are worried about the stability of your home	Keep out of any affected buildings until you are told it is safe to return	<b>Emergency services Council Building Control</b>	☎ 999  ☎ 01442 228907
If you notice damage to roads, pavements or street signs or a faulty street light		<b>Hertfordshire Highways  Local Highways area office</b>	☎ 0300 123 4047 www.hertsdirect.org  ☎ 01923 257000 southwestherts.area@hertshighways.org.uk

## Other useful contact numbers:

### Police

If you are in immediate danger and need urgent police, fire and rescue or ambulance assistance call **999**.

In non-emergency situations you can contact Hertfordshire Police on **0845 3300222**.

**Local police officers** covering the Nash Mills Area:

#### PC 452 Nik Pringle

Nicholas.pringle@herts.pnn.police.uk  
07736 225268

#### PCSO 6582 Lesley Kirkpatrick

lesley.kirkpatrick@herts.pnn.police.uk  
01442 271636

### Councillors

Councillors representing the Nash Mills area are as follows:

**Dacorum Borough Council:** Lucy Foster, 7 Crabtree Lane, Hemel Hempstead ☎ 01442 257203

**Hertfordshire County Council:** Jan Maddern, 29 Swan Mead, Hemel Hempstead ☎ 01442 401241