

GRIM'S DYKE

A Scheduled Monument is an archaeological feature that the Secretary of State has deemed of national importance. "Scheduling" is one of the ways we protect our archaeological heritage for future generations and is restricted to the most important sites and monuments, and is part of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. Large sections of Grim's Dyke are a Scheduled Ancient Monument. These areas are: the earthwork feature 1370 metres north east of Oxhey Lane within the boundary of the Grim's Dyke Golf Course, and four linear sections between Uxbridge Road and Oxhey Lane. The areas bordering Saddlers Mead and the linear areas between Uxbridge Road and Oxhey Lane are also identified in the London Borough of Harrow's Unitary Development Plan as being Archaeological Priority Areas (APA's).

Scheduled Monument Consent

The scheduling of a monument means that permission: 'Scheduled Monument Consent' (SMC) is required for works to the monument. All activities that will change the site above or below ground needs consent. For example, activities that would need SMC include demolition, removal of earth, repairs and alteration, and tipping. Normal agricultural or domestic gardening works would not usually be affected by this designation. Domestic gardening activities such as planting, the construction of bases and foundations of sheds and paths etc. would not require consent. However consent is necessary for deeper excavations (300 mm or more) such as might be required for swimming pools, tree planting and the extension or creation of gardens in new areas. Metal detecting equipment must not be used on a Scheduled Monument.

Please contact English Heritage on the address below, before you undertake any works that may affect a Scheduled Monument. Please note that SMC would not be required for works within APA sections of the Dyke, but any application for Planning Permission may require archaeological surveys prior to the commencement of works.

English Heritage
1 Waterhouse Square
138-142 Holborn
London EC1N 2ST
Tel: 020 7973 3000

Conservation Team
Harrow Council
Garden House, 5 St Johns Road
Harrow. HA1 2EE
Tel: 020 8736 6164, 6100 or 6101

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Within Grim's Dyke Estate, an area of Grim's Dyke has been filled with water to help protect its important archaeology

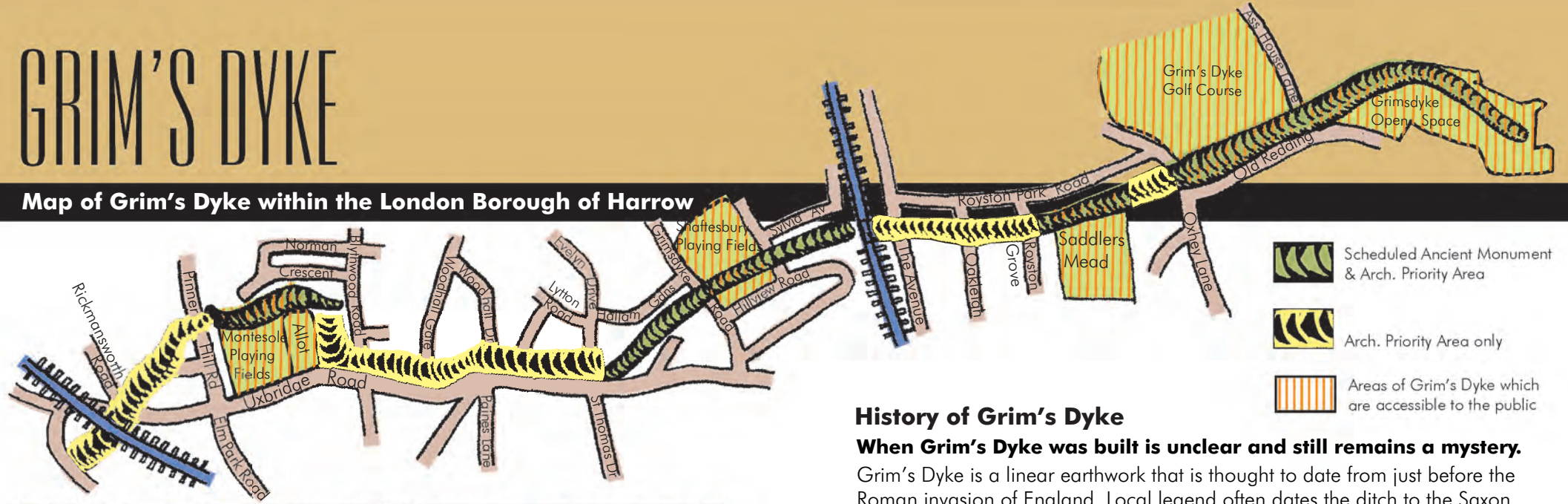


Grim's Dyke is a linear earthwork that is thought to date from before the Saxon period. It can be found in the areas of Pinner, Hatch End and Harrow Weald, and is best viewed at Montesole Playing Fields, Saddler's Mead Recreation Grounds and the grounds of Grim's Dyke Golf Course and Hotel. It also runs through a number of private gardens.

Grim's Dyke is of great historical and archaeological importance and as such has Scheduled Monument status. This leaflet provides information and guidance on the monument for local residents and users.

GRIM'S DYKE

Map of Grim's Dyke within the London Borough of Harrow



Area of Grim's Dyke within the Grim's Dyke Golf Course

History of Grim's Dyke

When Grim's Dyke was built is unclear and still remains a mystery.

Grim's Dyke is a linear earthwork that is thought to date from just before the Roman invasion of England. Local legend often dates the ditch to the Saxon period. The Saxons invaded this part of England in the 5th Century AD from Northern Germany and settled in East Anglia and the South because of the large amount of land that could be farmed, but this date is probably too late. Grim is the Saxon word for devil or goblin and was given to various linear earthworks similar to the one in Harrow and as such it is likely that the earthworks name was derived from this time.

Many Saxon earthworks served as defence lines or boundary markers. Today, Grim's Dyke still marks boundaries between property owners and follows the line of many residential gardens, particularly in Hatch End. There are sections of similar linear earthworks close to The Ridgeway National Trail either side of the River Thames, with some extensive lengths in the Chilterns.

Little conclusive evidence has been found to accurately date the construction of the bank and ditch. However, archaeological excavations at Grim's Dyke Hotel carried out in 1979 found a 1st century, or slightly earlier, fire hearth. Other discoveries include Iron Age and Belgic Pottery found during excavations of the Montesole Playing Fields in 1957.

Grim's Dyke has suffered considerably from unwelcome attention over the past century. 19th century searches for brickearth and gravel led to the destruction of parts of the earthwork, and considerable damage was caused by construction work in the 1930s. Today it is under threat from activities of motorcycle scrambling and illegal rubbish dumping. Grim's Dyke is an important part of Harrow's heritage and it is therefore essential that it is preserved for future generations.