

**COUNTY:** BERKSHIRE

**SITE NAME:** PINCENTS KILN

**Status:** Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

**Local Planning Authorities:** Newbury District Council, Berkshire County Council

**National Grid Reference:** SU651720

**Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000:** 175 **1:10,000:** SU67 SE

**Date Notified (Under 1949 Act):** 1970 **Date of Last Revision:** 1975

**Date Notified (Under 1981 Act):** 1983 **Date of Last Revision:** 1985

**Area:** 0.2 ha 0.5 ac

**Other information:** Boundary amended 1985.

**Description and Reasons for Notification**

This disused quarry provides the best and only remaining permanent exposure of the Tertiary Reading Beds in the area from which they were first described, and is therefore a key locality for study by all those geologists working on rocks of this age in Britain. The Reading Beds at this locality provide evidence that a shallow sea spread over this area some 60 million years ago, before retreating and being replaced by riverine conditions. Within the sands and clays which were deposited in these rivers is found a well preserved fossil flora of higher plants, with a number of species of fossil fruits and seeds which are new to science.