

COUNTY: KENT            SITE NAME: LENHAM QUARRY

DISTRICT: MAIDSTONE

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

Local Planning Authority: MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

National Grid Reference: TQ 915525    Area: 4.4 (ha.) 10.9 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 189    1:10,000: TQ 95 SW

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1981    Date of Last Revision: –

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act) 1987    Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

This is a Geological Conservation Review Site known as Pivington Quarry. Several small deletions to make a more logical boundary mean that the GCR site now coincides with the SSSI boundary.

Reasons for Notification:

This locality shows a section of the problematic Lenham Beds, variously ascribed in past accounts to the Miocene, Pliocene or the Pleistocene. The consensus of opinion presently assigns these rocks to the Pliocene time period, on the basis of their contained marine gastropod and bivalve faunas, as well as serpulid worms, brachiopods, bryozoans, scaphopods and echinoids. This fauna is important for it makes possible the placing of this deposit in a time period which is otherwise poorly represented in the rocks of the British Isles.