

File ref:

County: Hampshire **Site Name:** Downend Chalk Pit SSSI

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

Local Planning Authority: Hampshire County Council, Fareham Borough Council

National Grid Reference: SU 601067

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 196 **1:10,000:** SU 50 NE, SU 60 N

Area: 4.43 (ha) 10.94 (ac)

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1971 **Date of Last Revision:** 1978

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 13.1.1987 **Date of Last Revision:** -

Other Information:

Boundary revised 1986 to delete areas not of geological significance. SSSI formerly incorrectly named Bourne End Chalk Pit.

Reasons for Notification:

A unique and internationally important Upper Cretaceous site. Quarrying here has exposed a complex of contemporaneously folded and disturbed beds which include folded hardgrounds. Well exposed chalk of this age (early to mid Campanian) is rare in Britain and there are no other exposures of this age with a comparable density of hardgrounds. The site yields a rich and important fauna, particularly in association with the hardgrounds. There are several rare fossils, such as the compound corals *Synhelia* and *Diblasus*, and heteromorph ammonites previously unknown in Britain.