

COUNTY: HEREFORD AND WORCESTER

SITE NAME: MADELEY HEATH  
PIT

DISTRICT: BROMSGROVE

SITE REF: 15 W7F

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

Local Planning Authority: HEREFORD AND WORCESTER COUNTY COUNCIL,  
Bromsgrove District Council

National Grid Reference: SO 958770

Area: 2.3 (ha.) 5.7 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 139

1:10,000: SO 97 NE

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): –

Date of Last Revision: –

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 5.8.91

Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:  
New site.

**Description and Reasons for Notification:**

This pit exploits an enigmatic spread of gravel which caps this part of the Clent Hills, at over 200 m above sea level. Research on this deposit is at an early stage, but it is clear that it is of considerable significance for the reconstruction of Pleistocene palaeogeography in the Midlands. The gravel occupies a deep channel cut in Triassic bedrock; a steep bedrock-gravel contact is exposed in the pit. The orientation of this channel and the composition of the gravel pose a number of important questions for Pleistocene stratigraphy in this area. The gravel contains numerous semi-durable igneous clasts, suggesting a glacial, ice-proximal origin, whereas the orientation of the channel, from the north-west to the south-east, suggests a possible connection with the pre-glacial fluvial system, perhaps an Upper Severn-Thames drainage routeway. Till and lacustrine silts have also been observed in the pit. This site is of considerable importance as it may provide a unique link between the pre-glacial environment of the Midlands, about which very little is known, and the main glaciation of the area.