

COUNTY: DERBYSHIRE

SITE NAME: CAWDOR
QUARRY

DISTRICT: NORTH EAST DERBYSHIRE

SITE REF: 15 WMJ

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

Local Planning Authority: DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL, North East Derbyshire District Council

National Grid Reference: SK 284605

Area: 4.53 (ha.) 11.2 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 119

1:10,000: SK 26 SE

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1963

Date of Last Revision: 1981

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1986

Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

Boundary alteration (reduction).

Reasons for Notification:

The limestones and shales seen at Cawdor Quarry were laid down in a warm shallow sea some 325 million years ago, during the Dinantian Stage of the Carboniferous Period. These rocks, which are the youngest part of a group of rocks called the Carboniferous Limestone, are of great interest to geologists because of the variety of shelly fossils and microfossils which they contain. These fossils include molluscs, brachiopods and echinoderms. This site provides the best exposure of this part of the Carboniferous Limestone sequence anywhere in Derbyshire.

Included in the site is a pond, fed by a base-rich seepage from the quarry face, with a rich and interesting fauna.