

COUNTY: GLOUCESTERSHIRE

SITE NAME: WELLACRE QUARRY

DISTRICT: COTSWOLD

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

Local Planning Authority: GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL, Cotswold District Council

National Grid Reference: SP 180370

Area: 12.3 (ha.) 30.4 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 151

1:10,000: SP 13 NE

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1974

Date of Last Revision: 1974

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1985

Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

Within the Cotswold AONB. Site formerly known as Blockley Station Brickworks.

Reasons for Notification:

This is an outstanding geological locality providing the best exposures in Britain of part of the Lower Jurassic, Middle Lias rock succession. These exposures represent the subdivision of the Jurassic known as the *Luridum* Subzone which, elsewhere in Britain, is either thin and incomplete or poorly known. At Wellacre, in contrast, this subzone is thick, richly fossiliferous and well documented. The strata here contain an abundant fossil fauna including a very important suite of ammonites of great value in accurately dating the succession. Specimens collected from this site have been the subject of very detailed research which has provided an important insight into the evolution and physiology of ammonites.