

COUNTY: Norfolk

SITE NAME: BRAMERTON PITS

DISTRICT: South Norfolk

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

Local Planning Authority: South Norfolk District Council

National Grid Reference: TG 295060 TG 298061 Area: 0.5 [ha] 1.2 [ac]

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 134 1:10,560: TG 20 NE

Date Notified [Under 1949 Act]: 1954 Date of Last Revision: –

Date Notified [Under 1981 Act]: 1985 Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

Reasons for Notification:

This site which consists of two disused gravel pits is notified for its geological interest. Bramerton Common Pit has been regarded as the type section for the Norwich Crag of Lower Pleistocene age since the last century. Blake's Pit has recently been designated the type site for the Bramertonian temperate stage. At both localities sands, silts and gravels have yielded marine Mollusca [together with rare non-marine species], Foraminifera and vertebrates. Studies of pollen, Foraminifera and Mollusca from Blake's Pit have demonstrated change from temperate [Bramertonian] to cold [Pre-Pastonian] climatic conditions. A key locality of national importance to Pleistocene studies.

The Bramerton Pits with their marine 'crag' deposits are remarkable for their rich vertebrate fossils. The main fauna includes marine fishes, extinct voles, a gomphothene mastodont and an extinct otter. This is the only fauna definitely attributable to the Bramertonian Stage making this an outstanding site in our understanding of the succession of vertebrate [particularly mammalian] faunas in the Pleistocene.