

Date Notified: 27 November 1987

File ref: NY 01/6

County: Cumbria **Site Name:** **River Calder Section**

District: Copeland

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

Local Planning Authority: Copeland Borough Council

National Grid Reference: NY 068117 **Area:** 0.7 (ha) 1.7 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 89 **1:10,000:** NY 01 NE

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1987 **Date of Last Revision:** –

Other Information:

1. This is a new site.
2. This site lies within the Lake District National Park.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

The River Calder Section lies 8 km south of Ennerdale Bridge on Kinniside Common and comprises a series of rock outcrops along a 150 m stretch of the River Calder. The site is of importance because rocks of the Skiddaw Group have here yielded the first definite Tremadoc-type faunas in the Lake District, with the consequent implications for the assessment of the geological history of the region. The fauna, mainly trilobites, includes *Peltocare*, *Prospectatrix*, *Parabolinella*, *Niobina*, nileids and agnostids. The taxa are different from those found in the upper Tremadoc elsewhere in Britain, and the presence of nileids suggests that this is a higher stratigraphical level than those found in other areas. The rocks may, therefore, be correlated with Tremadoc-Arenig “transitional” sequences in Scandinavia. This is supported by grapholite evidence from adjacent districts, which suggests a correlation with the lower Lancefieldian Stage of Australia and New Zealand.