

SITE NOTIFIED TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE ON 5 OCTOBER 1992

COUNTY: SOMERSET SITE NAME: LAYCOCK RAILWAY CUTTING

DISTRICT: SOUTH SOMERSET

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

Local Planning Authority: SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL, South Somerset District Council

National Grid Reference: ST 678213 Area: 1.26 (ha.) 3.11 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 183 1:10,000: ST 62 SE

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): – Date of Last Revision: –

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1993 Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

A new site.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

Laycock Railway Cutting is the best single exposure of the Bathonian 'Fuller's Earth Rock' in South Somerset. This unit comprises limestones and thin marls which often yield a good marine shelly fauna. In particular, ammonites indicating the *Morrisoni* and *Subcontractus* zones of the Middle Bathonian are frequent. Ammonites are generally extremely rare at this level in Britain and their presence at Laycock is of international stratigraphic importance.

The 'Fullers Earth Rock' succession at Laycock includes a typical development of the Milbourne Beds in their type area, and is important for illustrating the lateral transition of this unit into the Lingulifera Bed and Thornford Beds of North Dorset. The combination of features of both litho- and chrono-stratigraphical importance make Laycock Railway Cutting a key British Bathonian locality.