

COUNTY: KENT SITE NAME: PEMBURY CUTTING AND PIT

BOROUGH: TUNBRIDGE WELLS BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

Local Planning Authority: TUNBRIDGE WELLS

National Grid Reference: TQ 615414, TQ 613414, Area: 1.6 (ha.) 3.93 (ac.)
TQ 613415

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 188 1:10,000: TQ 64 SW

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1968 Date of Last Revision: 1981

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1989

Other Information:

This site is a 'Geological Conservation Review' site. Alterations to the area previously notified include some minor deletions and one major extension.

Description:

The quarry in Newbars Wood exposes pebbly sandstones, sandstones and siltstone (10m) of the Ardingly Sandstone Member of the upper Lower Tunbridge Wells Sand Formation (upper Hastings Bed Group). Over a lateral distance of 120m, a wealth of sedimentary structures give evidence of flow conditions and directions (channel-in-channel forms, cross-bedding, texture, etc), while other erosion surfaces, intraformational conglomerates, contemporary ironpan and upstanding *Lycopodites* record events in a bigger braid-channel, subject to widely varying and episodic flow and exposure.

The A21 – Blackhurst Lane cutting exposes a 6.5m stack of two planar cross-bedded (transverse bar) sandstones, each capped by thin cross-bedded (megatipple) sandstones. The two sequences are separated by a persistent clay seam and the lower is crowded with upstanding *Lycopodites* (1m) in life-position.

The quarry and road cutting sediments are postulated as having been deposited within a yet larger through-channel traversing the Lower Tunbridge Wells braidplain, of which the quarry in Robingate Wood may expose the 'normal' succession.

The three sequences are to be contrasted with those at the Hastings-Pett Level sites, which formed in a more coastal meanderplain.

The sites are vitally important for interpreting conditions in the proximal (northern) area of the Hastings Group basin.