

Date of Notification: 28 May 1993

File ref: SE 98 BL.5

Site code: 18 WXH

County: Humberside **Site Name:** Drewton Lane Pits

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

Local Planning Authority: Humberside County Council, Beverley Borough Council

National Grid Reference: SE 920329 and SE 918333

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 106 **1:10,000:** SE 93 SW

Area: 5.1 (ha) 12.6 (ac)

First Notified: 1988*

Date of Revision: 1993*

Description and Reasons for Notification:

This site is notified for its international geological interest, the nationally important populations of great crested newts and outstanding assemblage of breeding amphibians.

The site known as Drewton Lane Pits includes two separate and neighbouring quarries known historically as South Cave Station Quarry (southern area) and Kettlethorpe Quarry (northern area).

Both quarries show important sections through the Humberside facies of the Kellaways Formation, dominantly of Lower Callovian age. Several metres of the Kellaways Sand Member, with sporadic large calcareous concretions, is overlain by up to 3m of ferruginous sand and sandstone, the Cave Rock Member (= 'Kellaways Rock' *sensu lato*).

Station Quarry is the type locality for the Cave Rock Member and only here is the overlying "Middle" Oxford Clay (Middle Callovian) seen. The Cave Rock Member of both quarries yields a rich shelly fauna including many ammonites, belemnites, bivalves and brachiopods and detailed palaeoecological reconstructions are possible.

The ammonites are particularly important and the Cave Rock Member yields the best preserved Enodatum Subzone (Calloviense Zone) faunas known in Britain. Station Quarry is historically the type locality for the Enodatum Subzone and is the probable type locality for five characteristic nominal ammonite species *Catasigoloceras planicercius* Buckman 1923; *Catasigoloceras curvicercius* Buckman 1923; *Catasigoloceras crispatum* Buckman 1923; *Cadoceras* [*Catacephalites*] *durum* (Buckman 1922); *Anaplanulites difficilis* Buckman 1922.

Although Station Quarry has the largest exposures of the Kellaways Sand and Cave Rock Members in the district, only at Kettlethorpe can a detailed succession of ammonite faunas be made out. The two quarry sites are therefore complementary and together form one of Britain's most important geological localities – one of great significance to European Jurassic stratigraphy.

Station Quarry includes a series of ponds which hold nationally important numbers of breeding great-crested newts *Triturus cristatus*. Great crested newts are protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Annual counts over the last 5 years suggest a total population exceeding 1,000 individuals.

The ponds also support large numbers of breeding toads *Bufo bufo* with smaller populations of smooth newts *T. vulgaris* and common frogs *Rana temporaria*, all of which contribute to an outstanding assemblage of amphibians at this site.

Whilst the amphibians breed in the ponds, the surrounding grassland and scrub habitats provide essential feeding and hibernating areas.

Other Information:

This site is identified as being of national importance in the Geological Conservation Review.

* Under Section 23 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981, as amended.