

COUNTY: DERBYSHIRE

SITE NAME: AMBERGATE & RIDGEWAY
QUARRIES

DISTRICT: AMBER VALLEY SITE REF: 15 WNA

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

Local Planning Authority: DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL, Amber Valley
District Council

National Grid Reference: SK 358514, SK 361517 Area: 1.02 (ha.) 2.52 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 119 1:10,000: SK 35 SE

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1963 Date of Last Revision: –

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1990 Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

Site boundary alteration (extension and reduction).

Description and Reasons for Notification:

These two quarries provide very important exposures in rock of Westphalian age (Upper Carboniferous). The section exposed at the largely infilled Ambergate Quarry displays the best available exposure of the Belperlawn Coal and the sediments associated with that unit, the lowest economically viable seam in the Pennines coalfields. This section is principally of interest because it shows sediments originally laid down in front of the delta, whose sands formed the Crawshaw Sandstone Formation. This Formation is present in the nearby Ridgeway Quarry and is the lowest major sandstone body in the Westphalian rocks of the southern Pennines. The Crawshaw Sandstone Formation also has considerable economic importance as a gas and oil reservoir. Ridgeway Quarry shows the sandstone lying with an erosive base on the *Gastrioceras subcrenatum* Marine Band, the internationally recognised base of the Westphalian Series. The sandstone body itself has strongly developed planar cross-bedding and is interpreted as a fluvial channel deposit. Both Ambergate and Ridgeway Quarries provide a valuable insight into the patterns of deposition of these economically important Carboniferous sediments.