

COUNTY: DEVON

SITE NAME: LOWER WHIPCOTT

DISTRICT: MID DEVON

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

Local Planning Authority: DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL, Mid Devon District Council

National Grid Reference: ST 069186      Area: 6.5 (ha.) 16.1 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 181      1:10,000: ST 01 NE

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

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1986      Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

A new site. Within County Structure Plan Mineral Consultation Area.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

The rocks and structures seen at this locality are typical of the Upper Westleigh Limestone, and they are particularly valuable because comparable exposures in the area are now inaccessible. Palaeontological evidence for the Lower Carboniferous (Dinantian) age of the sediments is available here and the limestones appear to be of turbiditic origin. This indicates that the Westleigh area lay in a marine basin, receiving influxes of sediment, in the form of dense turbid debris flows, from a now concealed source to the east. The sediments and fossils conveyed in these turbidity flows originated in shallow water and were swept down the sloping sea bed, adding to the thickness of sediment already accumulating in the basin. An important site for studies of Dinantian sedimentation and stratigraphy.