

COUNTY: Norfolk

SITE NAME: CATTON GROVE CHALK PIT

DISTRICT: Norwich

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

Local Planning Authority: Norfolk County Council and Norwich City Council

National Grid Reference: TG 229109                      Area: 0.05 (ha) 0.13 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 134                      1:10,000: TG 21 SE

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

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

Other Information:

The pit was infilled during 1985 and the geological exposures protected by a low bund.

**Reasons for Notification:**

This site, in suburban Norwich, is the type locality for the Upper Chalk (Cretaceous) Catton Sponge Bed. This famous late Campanian rock unit represents an early diagenetic hardened level (hardground) which has a well preserved fauna including important ammonites and many undescribed sponges. This seldom exposed horizon representing a hardened sea bed (a rarity in the Chalk) is an important marker band across East Anglia and is best seen at Catton.