

COUNTY: GLOUCESTERSHIRE

SITE NAME HAMPEN RAILWAY CUTTING

DISTRICT: Cotswold

SITE REF: 15 WWL

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

Local Planning Authority: GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL, Cotswold District Council

National Grid Reference: SP 062205

Area: 3.9 (ha.) 9.6 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 163

1:10,000: SP 02 SE

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1974

Date of Last Revision: 1974

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1986

Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

The site lies within The Cotswold AONB.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

This locality is one of the best exposures of the Hampen Marly Formation of the Middle Jurassic, and is designated as the standard reference section (type-locality) for this unit. The exposures in the cutting show the complete section from the top of the Lower Fuller's Earth Clay up to the middle of the White Limestone Formation. During the Middle Jurassic the Cotswolds area was occupied by a shallow 'shelf' sea, deepening eastwards into a basin occupying central southern England. This locality is critical in interpreting the Middle Jurassic succession in north-east Gloucestershire and understanding the variations in rocks of this age between the Cotswolds 'shelf' and the deeper basin of the Wessex area.