

COUNTY: DERBYSHIRE

SITE NAME: WATERSWALLOWS QUARRY

DISTRICT: HIGH PEAK

SITE REF: 15 WF2

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, High Peak Borough Council

National Grid Reference: SK 082750

Area: 0.69 (ha.) 1.70 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 119

1:10,000: SK 07 NE/SE

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): –

Date of Last Revision: –

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1993

Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

New GCR site.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

Waterswallows Quarry lies approximately 1 km to the north east of Buxton. The location chosen to demonstrate the special interest of this site is a quarry face approximately 260 metres long. It is situated in the north west face of the quarry.

The exposure shows part of an olivine-phyric dolerite sill which has been intruded into Dinantian limestone. The sill, which is tholeiitic in composition, shows internal variations in both mineralogy and texture at this site which may reflect pre-intrusive differentiation. It is thought that the sill was emplaced at a time equivalent to the Namurian-Westphalian Boundary and thus represents a phase of magmatism much later than the Dinantian lavas of Derbyshire.