

COUNTY: DEVON

SITE NAME: PLAISTOW QUARRY

DISTRICT: NORTH DEVON

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

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

National Grid Reference: SS 568372      Area: 11.4 (ha.) 28.2 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 180      1:10,000: SS 53 NE

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

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1985      Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

County Structure Plan Area for Mineral Working and Mineral Consultation Area.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

This is the best locality for the Upper Devonian Baggy Beds flora. This flora consists mainly of lycopods and pteridosperms, the latter being the oldest known gymnosperms in Britain. No definite seeds are known, but several examples of what are probably empty cupules have been found. There are also some possible equisetum stems, which if their identification is confirmed will also be the oldest British examples of their group. The scarcity of Upper Devonian floras in Britain makes this site of national importance, providing one of the few links between the primitive Middle Devonian floras and the more Advanced Lower Carboniferous floras. In addition to its plant fossils, the site has also yielded a very rich invertebrate fauna. This makes the locality the best shelly fossil site within the late Devonian Baggy Beds (Famennian).