

File ref:

**County:** Leicestershire **Site name:** Tilton Cutting

**District:** **Harborough**

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

**Local Planning Authority:** Harborough District Council

**National Grid Reference:** SK 761056 to SK 765050 **Area:** 4.7 (ha) 11.5 (ac)

**Ordnance Survey Sheet 1: 50 000:** 141 **1: 10 000:** SK 70 NE

**Date Notified (Under 1949 Act):** 1981 **Date of Last Revision:**

**Date Notified (Under 1981 Act):** 1983 **Date of Last Revision:** -

**Other Information:**

**Reasons for Notification:**

A Key geological site.

**Geology:**

The interest of this site, in technical terms, may be defined as follows:

The section here, showing the Marlstone Rock Bed (Pliensbachian - Toarcian) and Transition Bed, may be regarded as the standard for this portion of the east Midlands Lias. Outstanding ammonite, brachiopod and gastropod faunas distinguish this succession, and include the zonal ammonite index *Tiloniceras acutum*.

In layman's terms, the interest of this site may be expressed more simply, and such a statement is provided below. This should not be taken as definitive and further information as to details of the interest can be obtained from the Nature Conservancy Council.

The section exposed along the sides of this cutting is the best in the East Midlands for demonstrating the sequence of rocks laid down about 180 million years ago, and known as the Marlstone Rock Bed and the Transition Bed. The Marlstone Rock Bed consists of a workable ironstone overlying a hard lime-rich sandstone and basal pebble bed, while the Transition Bed is considered to represent the weathered upper portion of this sequence. A rich assemblage of fossils has been found here, including the age-diagnostic ammonite *Tiloniceras acutum*.