

COUNTY: SUFFOLK      SITE NAME: SANDY LANE PIT, BARHAM

DISTRICT: MID-SUFFOLK

Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as amended

Local Planning Authority: MID-SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL, Suffolk County Council

National Grid Reference: TM 133515      Area: 10.89 (ha.) 26.70 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 156      1:10,000: TM 15 SW

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1993

Other Information:

This site is included in the Geological Conservation Review.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

This locality shows the best development of the unique early middle-Pleistocene succession present in the area, spanning the Beestonian-Anglian Stages. A palaeosol ('fossil' soil horizon), considered to have a composite origin dating from both the Cromerian and early Anglian Stages, is developed on Kesgrave Sands and Gravels, thought to have been deposited by a former river (a proto-Thames) during the Beestonian Stage. The palaeosol is overlain in turn by a loess, out-wash sands and gravels, and glacial till – all correlated with the Anglian Cold Stage. The importance of the site lies in the well-developed palaeosol (representing a former land surface), and the stratigraphical interpretation of the sequence; both of which are subjects of current controversy.