

COUNTY: PEAK DISTRICT, DERBYSHIRE    SITE NAME: CALTON HILL

DISTRICT: WEST DERBYSHIRE                      SITE REF: 15 WKA

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

Local Planning Authority: PEAK PARK JOINT PLANNING BOARD, West Derbyshire District Council

National Grid Reference: SK 119715                      Area: 6.5 (ha.) 16.0 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 119                      1:10,000: SK 17 SW

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1951                      Date of Last Revision: 1972

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1986                      Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:  
Site boundary modified (reduction).

**Description and Reasons for Notification:**

This largely-restored quarry is of considerable importance to geologists because of the occurrence of a very rare rock-type within the basalt lavas which are exposed here. The Calton Hill area was the site of a volcanic vent during early Carboniferous times, some 330 million years ago, and the basalt lavas occur within the vent. The lavas contain nodules of rocks known as spinel lherzolites and harzburgites, which originated from very deep within the Earth's crust, and which were brought to the surface during the volcanic activity. Consequently, such rocks are very rare, and this is the only locality in England at which they are found. Their study enables geologists to understand better the processes which take place within volcanic complexes.