

File ref:

County: Lincolnshire **Site name:** Welton-Le-Wold Old Gravel Pits

District: East Lindsey

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

Local Planning Authority: East Lindsey District Council

National Grid Reference: TF 284884 **Area:** 3.4 (ha) 8.4 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1: 50 000: 122 **1: 10 000:** TF 28 NE

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

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

Other Information:

Description and Reasons for Notification:

Welton-Le-Wold is a site of the highest importance for Pleistocene studies in Britain. The critical significance of the deposits lies in their geographical position and the links they provide between the stratigraphical successions of East Anglia, the Midlands and Holderness. Together, the sections reveal three till units, overlying gravels (Welton Gravels) containing derived Hoxnian mammal fossils and Acheulian artefacts. The lowermost till (Welton Till) is generally accepted as Wolstonian in age and has been correlated with the Basement Till of Holderness; the uppermost till is Devensian. The stratigraphical position and age of the chalky middle till, the Calcethorpe Till, are controversial and have generated considerable debate because of their profound implications for inter-regional correlations. According to one interpretation, the till is Wolstonian in age and a correlative of the chalky till of the Midlands. The alternative view is that the chalky till at Welton-Le-Wold is soliflucted and relates to the chalky till of East Anglia, which is demonstrably of Anglian age and that the chalky tills are coeval. The sections at Welton-Le-Wold are therefore of crucial importance for facilitating further work to elaborate a regional Pleistocene stratigraphy for central and eastern England.