

County: Devon **Site Name:** Laughter Quarry

District: West Devon

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

Local Planning Authority: Devon County Council, Dartmoor National Park

National Grid Reference: SX 657763 **Area:** 1.0 (ha) 2.4 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 191 **1:10,000:** SX 67 NE

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

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1988 **Date of Last Revision:** –

Other Information:

A new site listed as of national importance in the Geological Conservation Review. In Dartmoor National Park.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

Laughter Quarry is a site of considerable geomorphological importance for its assemblage of periglacial and granite weathering features typical of Dartmoor slopes. It is particularly noted for a most striking example of outcrop curvature – downslope deformation of the upper part of the weathered granite by solifluction, clearly illustrated by the deflection of tourmaline veins – and convincingly shows its relationships with bedded gneiss. Head deposits overlie the rotted granite which shows a typical series of weathering zones and differential weathering forms passing down into solid bedrock. Additional interest includes local pneumatolytic alteration of the granite by mineralising fluids from deep within the earth. Laughter Quarry is one of the best sites demonstrating many of the classic slope features of Dartmoor in a single exposure.