

County: Devon and Dorset **Site Name:** Broom Gravel Pits

District: East Devon and West Dorset

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, East Devon District Council, Dorset County Council, West Dorset District Council

National Grid Reference: ST 326020 and ST 327024 **Area:** 1.6 (ha) 3.9 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 193 **1:10,000:** ST 30 SW

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

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

Other Information:

A new site.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

Broom Gravel Pits are sites of the highest importance for Pleistocene studies. They provide critical sections in the terrace gravels of the Axe Valley which has long been famous for its Pleistocene geomorphological and archaeological interests relating to the Hoxnian and Wolstonian periods. Not only are the pits of geomorphological significance for representative sections in the gravel deposits, but they also provide unique evidence for environmental conditions during part of the Middle Pleistocene period in South West England. Broom Gravel Pits are therefore key reference sites in a classic area for Pleistocene studies.