COUNTY: BERKSHIRE **SITE NAME:** BRIMPTON PIT

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

Local Planning Authorities: Newbury District Council, Berkshire County Council

National Grid Reference: SU566651

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 174 **1:10,000:** SU56 NE

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1984 **Date of Last Revision:**

Area: 1.64 ha 4.05 ac

Other information:

Description and Reasons for Notification

This working gravel pit is of very considerable importance to geologists because of the evidence which it provides for environmental changes during the Ice Age. The gravels are inter-bedded with silts which contain fossil molluscs and pollen, and which indicate that the sediments were laid down during a warm period which separated two phases of glacial advance. The warm phase has been called by geologists the 'Brimpton Interstadial' and this is the locality at which the evidence for this warm phase was first recognised. It is also a key site in elucidating the history of the development of the Thames, and its tributaries.