

COUNTY: BERKSHIRE

SITE NAME: CANNONCOURT FARM PIT

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

Local Planning Authorities: Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead, Berkshire County Council

National Grid Reference: SU878831

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 175 **1:10,000:** SU88 NE

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1954 **Date of Last Revision:** 1975

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1984 **Date of Last Revision:** 1987

Area: 0.067 ha 0.166 ac

Other information: This site was formerly known as Cooper's Pit, Maidenhead SSSI. The boundary was revised in 1987.

Description and Reasons for Notification

This pit worked gravels of the Lynch Hill Terrace of the Thames, and has yielded large numbers of Palaeolithic implements since the beginning of the century, including the largest hand axe discovered to date in the British Isles (and probably Europe). The Lynch Hill Terrace and its associated Acheulian and Levallois industries was formerly included with the Boyn Hill Terrace, and it was in the Maidenhead area that it was first described as a separate feature. The Industry at Furze Platt is markedly different from that in the Lynch Hill Terrace at Iver, suggesting a major problem of correlation between archaeological and geomorphological/geological evidence. To solve this problem will require further investigation of the Lynch Hill deposits, and the historical significance of the gravel at Furze Platt means that this site is one of considerable importance.