COUNTY: BERKSHIRE **SITE NAME:** FOGNAM CHALK QUARRY

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: SU298800

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 174 **1:10,000:** SU28 SE, SU27 NE

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

Area: 3.1 ha 7.66 ac

Other information: Within North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Description and Reasons for Notification

This disused quarry provides the best section anywhere in southern England of the thin unit lying near the base of the Upper Chalk, and known as the Chalk Rock. This unit, together with the chalk above and below it, was laid down on the floor of a warm sea which covered a large part of Europe during late Cretaceous times, about 80 million years ago. Of particular importance is the fact that the rock sequence lying beneath the Chalk Rock at Fognam is quite different to that seen anywhere else in Britain, and also contains ammonite fossils which are of great value for relating this sequence to similar sequences elsewhere in Europe.