

**COUNTY:** BERKSHIRE

**SITE NAME:** HAMSTEAD MARSHALL 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:** SU414662

**Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000:** 174                      **1:10,000:** SU46 NW

**Date Notified (Under 1981 Act):** 1985                      **Date of Last Revision:**

**Area:** 0.206 ha 0.509 ac

**Description and Reasons for Notification**

This pit is the best available exposure of the Hamstead Marshall Terrace of the Kennet, formerly known as the Silchester Stage. A very well developed feature, this terrace clearly marks an important phase of fluvial development, and controversy over its relationship to the Thames Terraces, and the presence or absence of Palaeolithic implements in the deposits makes this exposure of high importance.