

COUNTY: KENT SITE NAME: SPOT LANE QUARRY

BOROUGH: MAIDSTONE

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

Local Planning Authority: MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

National Grid Reference: TQ 793542 Area: 0.9 (ha.) 0.22 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 188 1:10,000: 75 SE

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1992

Other Information:

This is a new site; it will be noted in 'A Geological Conservation Review'.

Reasons for Notification:

The eastern face of this quarry exhibits a cross-section through a series of cambered blocks, tilted downslope, and intervening loess-filled gulls (cracks). The features are formed in sandy limestone of the Hythe Beds, and slipping has taken place over underlying Atherfield Clay. The site provides the best cross-section through a series of cambers and gulls currently visible in Britain. Further, the loess in the gulls is noted for its fauna of land snails, possibly of Wolstonian age. Loess in Britain is typically unfossiliferous, and Spot Lane Quarry is one of very few sites available where loess fauna can be studied. Spot Lane Quarry is therefore a key Pleistocene site for periglacial, mass movement and palaeoenvironmental studies.