

County: Dorset **Site Name:** Halfway House Quarry

District: West Dorset

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

Local Planning Authority: Dorset County Council, West Dorset District Council

National Grid Reference: ST 602164 **Area:** 1.3 (ha) 3.2 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 183 **1:10,000:** ST 61 NW

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1952 **Date of Last Revision:** 1977

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1986 **Date of Last Revision:** –

Other Information:

Site boundary amended by deletion.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

Historically the area around Halfway House has played a key part in unravelling the complex story of mid-Jurassic stratigraphy, and thus in advancing the science of geology as a whole.

The most famous section (at Halfway House) in addition to providing the internationally important type locality for the *truellei* subzone of the Upper Bajocian time interval, also exhibits a fully representative section through the Inferior Oolite as typically developed in this part of Dorset. Here, due to variations in conditions at the time of deposition, there are five major non-sequences or gaps in the succession, and numerous “hard-grounds” which represent areas of rocky sea bed, on which sediment deposition was very limited.