

COUNTY: GLOUCESTERSHIRE SITE NAME: KNAP HOUSE QUARRY, BIRDLIP

DISTRICT: TEWKESBURY

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

Local Planning Authority: GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL, Tewkesbury Borough Council

National Grid Reference: SO 925147

Area: 1.80 (ha.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 163

1:10,000: SO 91 SW

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1974

Date of Last Revision: 1974

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1985

Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

Within the Cotswold AONB. Site formerly known as Birdlip Quarry, Birdlip. The site is re-notified with boundary changes to fully encompass the interest.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

Knap House Quarry consists of a disused quarry in woodland about 400 m north of the village of Birdlip, approximately 8 km southwest of Gloucester.

Knap House Quarry provides important exposures of Middle Jurassic sediments belonging to the Aalenian and Bajocian Stages. Strata here consist of the Lower Inferior Oolite overlain unconformably by the Upper Trigonina Grit. Middle Inferior Oolite strata are entirely absent. The absence of the Middle Inferior Oolite results from a period of uplift and crustal warping intervening between the deposition of the Lower and Upper Inferior Oolite. This locality provides the best illustration of the effects of this tectonic episode, the effects of which were first demonstrated in the classic work of S. S. Buckman.

These exposures are of national importance for the understanding of Middle Jurassic stratigraphy, palaeogeography and tectonics in Britain.