

County: Dorset **Site Name:** Horn Park 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: West Dorset District Council, Dorset County Council

National Grid Reference: ST 457022 **Area:** 2.8 (ha) 7.0 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 193 **1:10,000:** ST 40 SE

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

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

Other Information:

Geological Conservation Review site.
Site boundary amended.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

This quarry represents a key reference section for rocks of the Aalenian Stage of geological time, laid down approximately 170 million years ago during the Jurassic Period. The study of the sections seen here is critical for the definition of the Aalenian Stage in an international context.

The site shows exposures in limestones of the Inferior Oolite, spanning both the Aalenian Stage and the succeeding Bajocian Stage, and is of great importance palaeontologically and stratigraphically. A complete sequence through Aalenian rocks is present, and is the most important sequence of this age anywhere in Britain; it is also critical for relating the British succession to successions seen elsewhere in Europe. Although the Aalenian rocks are very thin, all three ammonite zones are present, yielding abundant fossils vital for correlating these rocks with those from other localities in Britain and Europe.