

COUNTY: HAMPSHIRE

SITE NAME: DUNBRIDGE PIT SSSI

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

Local Planning Authorities: Hampshire County Council,
Test Valley Borough Council

National Grid Reference: SU 316257

Ordnance Survey Sheets 1:50,000: 185 **1:10,000:** SU 32 NW

Hectares/Acres: 0.68/1.7

Date Notified (1949 Act): –

Date of Last Revision: –

Date Notified (1981 Act): 14 October 1991

Date of Last Revision: –

Confirmed: 7 May 1992

Other Information:

Owned by The National Trust.

Reasons for Notification:

Dunbridge Pit provides exposures in terrace gravel of the River Test. The gravel here contains relatively abundant palaeolithic artifacts, the site representing the most prolific in Hampshire: Palaeolithic assemblages represent the only back-up for geomorphology in the correlation and sub-division of terraces in the Solent basin. This fact alone would ensure the importance of the Dunbridge Pit. At Dunbridge, however, stratigraphically distinct elements have been claimed within the palaeolithic assemblage, with a correlation between white patinated pointed hand axes and an upper whitened gravel. Further work would be required to confirm this stratigraphic control. If confirmed it would add Dunbridge to the mere handful of sites where different palaeolithic industries can be demonstrated to be in superposition. Clearly the Dunbridge Pit is of considerable scientific importance for the reconstruction of the terrace sequence in the Solent basin and for the correlation of Pleistocene and Palaeolithic chronologies on a broader scale.