

COUNTY: DERBYSHIRE

SITE NAME: COLEHILL QUARRIES

DISTRICT: WEST DERBYSHIRE

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

Local Planning Authority: DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL, West Derbyshire District Council

National Grid Reference: SK 287552      Area: 10.84 (ha.) 26.8 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 119      1:10,000: SK 25 NE

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

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1985      Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

New site.

Reasons for Notification:

The rocks seen in the Colehill Quarries Complex were laid down in a warm shallow sea some 320 million years ago during what is called the Dinantian Stage of geological time. These rocks, which form part of a group of limestones known as the Carboniferous Limestone, are very variable in type and contain a rich assemblage of fossils. The site is of national importance to geologists as studies of the limestones and their fossils have revealed that a number of very distinctive reef environments existed in the Wirksworth area in late Dinantian times, with the Colehill Quarries Complex demonstrating sediments laid down on the reef itself, in front of the reef, behind the reef and in areas between individual parts of the reef.