

COUNTY: KENT

SITE NAME: SOUTHBOROUGH PIT

DISTRICT: TUNBRIDGE WELLS

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

Local Planning Authority: TUNBRIDGE WELLS BOROUGH COUNCIL

National Grid Reference: TQ 592416 & TQ 595419      Area: 1.06 (ha.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 188      1:10,000: TQ 54 SE

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1993

Other Information:

Reasons for Notification:

This pit, in the lower Hastings Beds Group, shows a 20 m section in clays of the upper Wadhurst Clay Formation, overlain by 15 m of sandstones of the Lower Tunbridge Wells Sand Formation. This is the type locality of the High Brooms Soil Bed, which contains the aquatic horsetail *Equisetes lyellii* in growth position. This proves the presence of fresh or near-freshwater, of a depth less than 2 metres. The Soil Bed is intermittently exposed. The site is also important for showing the nature of the Wadhurst– Lower Tunbridge Wells transition, critical for sedimentological modelling. This is a key site for studies of sedimentation and palaeoenvironments in the Wealden.