

Date Notified: 27 February 1989

File ref: NY 60/9

County: Cumbria **Site Name:** Pinksey Gill

District: Eden

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

Local Planning Authority: Eden District Council

National Grid Reference: NY 698042, NY 698038

Area: 0.3 (ha) 0.7 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 91 **1:10,000:** NY 60 SE

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1988 **Date of Last Revision:** –

Other Information:

This is a new site.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

Pinksey Gill lies some 2 km west of the village of Ravenstonedale and directly east of the small settlement of Weasdale. Lying wholly within Ravenstonedale Common this locality shows the oldest Carboniferous Limestone (Dinantian) strata exposed in the Stainmore Trough. This is the type locality for the Pinksey Gill Beds which unconformably overlie Silurian slates, and are in turn overlain by the Shap Feldspar conglomerate, a fluvial derivative from the unroofing of the Shap Granite mass in Dinantian times. Micropalaeontological research on the Pinksey Gill Beds indicates a Tournaisian-Chadian age for these rocks, which were deposited in a restricted hypersaline marine environment. The vertical and lateral variation of the environment is reflected in the range of clastic and carbonate rock types, and of fossils (bivalves, brachiopods, gastropods and stromatolites) which are present. This is an important site in making palaeogeographical and environmental reconstructions of northern England in early Carboniferous times.