

COUNTY: HEREFORD AND WORCESTER
INN SECTION

SITE NAME: CROPTHORNE NEW

DISTRICT: WYCHAVON

SITE REF: 15WL3

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

Local Planning Authority: HEREFORD AND WORCESTER COUNTY COUNCIL,
Wychavon District Council

National Grid Reference: SO 996443

Area: 0.2 (ha.) 0.5 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 150

1:10,000: SO 94 SE

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): –

Date of Last Revision: –

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 5.8.91

Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:
New site.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

Deposits intersected by the A44 road near the New Inn, Cropthorne, represent the 3rd Terrace of the River Avon. Sediments underlying the surface of this terrace are frequently fossiliferous and have enabled the terrace to be attributed to the last or Ipswichian Interglacial. The New Inn section has yielded a rich molluscan fauna as well as mammalian bones and teeth and is a key site for dating this terrace. This section is of particular stratigraphic importance because in the Cropthorne area an unusual interpretation of the terrace stratigraphy of the River Avon was established. This claimed that terraces 3 and 4 represented the same aggradation, from the base of 3 to the top of 4, and that the terrace surfaces resulted from subsequent erosion. Both terraces are well developed at Cropthorne. Much of the Pleistocene stratigraphic framework for Midland England hinges upon this interpretation. Recent work suggests that Terrace 3 results from later dissection of Terrace 4 and that deposits of different ages are represented, as in conventional terrace stratigraphy. This has great significance for British Pleistocene stratigraphy. The New Inn section is of considerable importance both as a fossiliferous site in its own right and as part of the Avon terrace stratigraphy of the critical Cropthorne area.