

File ref:

County: Hampshire

Site Name: Heath Brow SSSI

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

Local Planning Authority: Hampshire County Council, Hart District Council

National Grid Reference: SU 823494

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 186 **1:10,000:** SU 84 NW

Area: 1.93 (ha) 4.76 (ac)

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

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 26 January 1995

Date of Last Revision: –

Date Confirmed: 17 August 1995

Other Information:

GCR (Geological Conservation Review) Block – Quaternary of the Thames.

Reasons for Notification:

Heath Brow provides exposures in one of the recent Pleistocene gravel aggradations of southern England, the Caesar's Camp Gravel. The origin of this deposit has been widely disputed; marine, glacial and fluvial processes have all been invoked at various times to explain their depositional environment. The sediments have been keenly researched since the early part of the century and active study continues. This recent research suggests that the Caesar's Camp Gravel was deposited by a braided river in flood events during a cold, periglacial period. This conclusion is supported by the large size (up to 350 mm in diameter) of the flint cobbles present in the deposit. Despite the detailed environmental history now established for the Caesar's Camp Gravel their stratigraphical position is still uncertain. The elevation of the gravel precludes correlation with the river terraces of the London Basin, making the Caesar's Camp Gravel one of the earliest periglacial deposits in southern England. The site is therefore of vital importance to reconstructions of the environmental history of southern England.