

COUNTY: KENT            SITE NAME: DRYHILL

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

Local Planning Authorities: KENT COUNTY COUNCIL, Sevenoaks District Council

National Grid Reference: TQ 499552            Area: 11.51 (ha.) 28.43 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheets 1:50,000: 188            1:10,000: TQ 45 NE, TQ 55 NW

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1996

Other Information:

This is a Geological Conservation Review Site, and is Public Open Space.

Reasons for Notification:

Dryhill is an inactive quarry located on the south-western edge of Sevenoaks in west Kent. The site is well known and provides a classic and nationally significant exposure through the 'rag and hassock' facies of the Aptian-aged Hythe Beds. This facies exhibits characteristic sedimentological features including sediment silicification and the early development of chert nodules. The site is also famous for its rich and diverse fossil brachiopod and bivalve fauna which is crucial for palaeoecological studies and international correlation of the Aptian Stage.

Dryhill is a famous and well-documented Aptian site, which is of undoubted national significance for its sedimentological and palaeontological features and stratigraphical interest.

Date: July 1996