

Notified to the Secretary of State 20 June 1995

**County:** Dorset **Site Name:** Shillingstone Quarry

**District:** North Dorset

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

**Local Planning Authority:** North Dorset District Council, Dorset County Council

**National Grid Reference:** ST 823098 **Area:** 8.13 (ha) 20.08 (ac)

**Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000:** 194 **1:10,000:** ST 90

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

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

**Other Information:**

**Description and Reasons for Notification:**

Shillingstone Quarry, located on the scarp slope of the North Dorset Downs south west of the River Stour gap, exposes a stratigraphically important sequence of Cretaceous-aged chalks representing the Cenomanian, Turonian and Coniacian stages. The quarry provides a virtually complete section through the Middle Chalk extending from the basal fossiliferous Melbourn Rock up into nodular chalky limestones with conspicuous hardgrounds attributed to both the Chalk Rock and the Spurious Chalk Rock.

The site lies at the margin of an area covering east Dorset and south Hampshire which was affected by major periods of non-deposition during late Cretaceous times. These pauses in sedimentation are related to tectonic or eustatic events and are responsible for the formation of the hardgrounds exposed in the upper parts of the quarry.

Shillingstone Quarry is of great scientific importance for studies of late Cretaceous stratigraphy and tectonics.