

Site notified to Secretary of State on 27 February 1996

County: Devon **Site Name:** New Cut, Torquay

District: Torbay

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

Local Planning Authority: Torbay Borough Council, Devon County Council

National Grid Reference: SX 9353 6575 **Area:** 0.02 (ha) 0.05 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 202 **1:10,000:** SX 96 SW

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1996 **Date of Last Revision:** –

Other Information:

A Geological Conservation Review (GCR) site.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

New Cut is located on the western side of Lincombe Drive, Torquay and comprises a road cutting approximately 120 metres in length and up to 3 metres in height. The section provides one of the best known and most fossiliferous exposures of the Staddon facies of the Lower Devonian Meadfoot Group.

The road cutting reveals a series of interbedded red shales, siltstones and sandstones which show traces of burrowing and bioturbation. The site is famed for its rich fossil fauna containing numerous brachiopods and homalonotid trilobites with bivalves and tentaculitids. The brachiopod fauna is indicative of an Emsian age and is dominated by the species *Plebejochonetes plebejus*. The faunal and lithological features indicate that the sediments were deposited in a near-shore inner-shelf marine environment, which contrasts with the deeper water facies typical of most of the Meadfoot Group in the Torbay area.

Apart from providing exposure of the key lithological features of the Staddon facies, New Cut is unique within the British marine Devonian for yielding abundant homalonotid trilobite remains and is the type locality for *Homalonotus champernownei* Woodward.