

COUNTY: NORFOLK

SITE NAME: ST. JAMES' PIT

DISTRICT: NORWICH

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

Local Planning Authority: Norwich City Council **Area:** 3.28 (ha.) 8.1 (ac.)

National Grid Reference: TG 242094 **1:10,000:** TG 20 NW

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 134

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

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1995 **Date of Last Revision:** –

Other Information:

A new site.

GCR BLOCK:

Vertebrate Palaeontology.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

St. James' Pit, Norwich, is well known for its Upper Cretaceous mosasaur fossil remains. Mosasaurs, is a large marine reptile, are relatively uncommon within British Cretaceous strata. St. James' Pit however, has yielded teeth and individual bones, including jaw and vertebrae, belonging to two mosasasaur genera, *Mosasaurus* and *Leiodon*.

The remaining unexcavated chalk sequence within St. James' Pit is regarded as having the best potential for future mosasasaur finds with the British Cretaceous.

St. James' pit is therefore a key locality for the future taxonomic and evolutionary study of Upper Cretaceous mosasaurs.