

COUNTY: AVON SITE NAME: HINTON HILL, WELLOW

DISTRICT: MENDIP

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

Local Planning Authority: AVON COUNTY COUNCIL, Wansdyke District Council

National Grid Reference: ST 757582 Area: 0.25 (ha.) 0.62 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 172 1:10,000: ST 75 NE

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

Other Information:

Description and Reasons for Notification:

The Twinhoe Ironshot facies of the Twinhoe Beds is a very localised development of limestone with ferruginous oololiths within the Great Oolite succession of the Peasedown St John – Wellow – Hinton Charterhouse area, near Bath.

This distinctive unit yields a varied bivalve (brachiopod) fauna but most importantly is noted for the occurrence of ammonites of the Orbis Zone of the Upper Bathonian. This fauna is virtually unknown elsewhere in Britain and is therefore of great importance for accurate international correlations with areas where a similar fauna are well documented (e.g. southern Germany). Ammonite faunas of the Twinhoe Ironshot include *Oxycerites orbis* (Giebel), (both macro- and microconch forms), *Procerites twinhoensis* Arkell (including the type specimen) and *Homeoplanulites* sp. – all forms of significant correlative importance.

The best surviving sections of the Twinhoe Ironshot facies are in a shallow cutting on Hinton Hill, where over 1.5m of the facies overlies Combe Down Oolite. The site is of great importance, not only to studies of the stratigraphy of the Middle Jurassic of the Bath district, but also to the British Bathonian as a whole. No other deposit in Britain yields a representative ammonite fauna of the Orbis Zone – a key stratigraphical marker in the Upper Bathonian of Europe – and historically the Twinhoe Ironshot contributed to the first ever descriptions of the zone as a stratigraphically distinguishable unit.

Site Notified to The Secretary of State on 31 January 1996