

COUNTY: DERBYSHIRE

SITE NAME: DALE QUARRY

DISTRICT: DERBYSHIRE DALES

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

Local Planning Authority: DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL, Derbyshire Dales District Council

National Grid Reference: SK 284541

Area: 1.99 (ha.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 119

1:10,000: SK 25 SE

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1998

Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

A Geological Conservation Review site.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

Dale Quarry is a disused quarry on the western edge of Wirksworth in Derbyshire. It adjoins the working Middle Peak Quarry to the north.

Dale Quarry shows important exposures of the Matlock and Cawdor Formations, belonging to the Brigantian Stage of the Lower Carboniferous, Dinantian Series. The lithological development of these formations contrasts with the massive-bedded limestones developed further to the west; at Dale Quarry the Matlock and Cawdor Formations contain a greater proportion of thin-bedded dark limestone and shaly limestones. This change reflects a passage from the shallow shelf seas of the 'Derbyshire Block' into deeper water, shelf edge sediments marginal to a deep basinal area. This environmental change is also reflected in a distinct fauna consisting typically of sparse productid and small rhynchonellid brachiopods, with rare zaphrentid corals.

These features make Dale Quarry a key site for understanding Lower Carboniferous palaeogeography and sedimentation patterns.