

County: Dorset **Site Name:** Holway Hill Quarry

District: West Dorset

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

Local Planning Authority: West Dorset District Council

National Grid Reference: ST 638211 **Area:** 0.1 (ha)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 183 **1:10,000:** ST 62 SW

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 19 November 1998

Other Information:

This is a Geological Conservation Review site.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

The site is situated about 4 kilometres north of Sherborne. The site consists of an 80 metre long face in a disused quarry. The face now forms one side of a garden.

Holway Hill Quarry shows a key exposure in the Inferior Oolite 'Formation'. It is the largest extant exposure of the Corton Denham Beds, and has been taken as the type locality for the unit. The unit shows a relatively expanded Bradfordensis Zone sequence over two metres thick including the lateral persistent Brebissoni Bed and the Ringens Bed. Lithologies are dominated by bioclastic limestone, nodular in part with a varied fauna including brachiopods *Homeorhynchia*, bivalves and ammonites *Brasilia* sp.

The site is of great palaeogeographical interest as equivalent beds elsewhere are in condensed, 'iron-shot' oolite facies and often only 0.35 metres to 0.45 metres in thickness. The locality therefore provides insights into the nature of the depositional regime (sedimentological and tectonic) in a stratigraphically complex, but internationally important region for Aalenian-Bajocian studies.