

SITE NOTIFIED TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE ON 24 MARCH 1997

COUNTY: SOMERSET      SITE NAME: WOOKEY STATION

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: SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL, Mendip District Council

National Grid Reference: ST 5315 4640      Area: 0.04 (ha.) 0.1 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 183      1:10,000: ST 54 SW

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1997      Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

A Geological Conservation Review (GCR) site.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

The old railway cutting at Wookey, located 2km west-north-west of Wells, exposes a three metre thick sequence of Pleistocene-aged cryoturbated gravels which exhibit scour-and-fill structures in their lower part. A small, silty channel-infilling has yielded an assemblage of palynomorph spores (including *Callitriche* sp.) recycled by wind action, sand-grains showing features consistent with aeolian transport and a molluscan assemblage containing *Succinea* sp. and *Pupilla muscorum*. Amino-acid dating of these shells suggests that the deposition of these gravels can be correlated with the maximum extent of the last (Devensian) glacial period.

The gravel exposures at Wookey Station are of considerable scientific importance providing a well-dated example of sediment deposition contemporaneous with the last glacial maximum and a well-exposed example of Mendip fan-gravels.