

Site Name: Ives Head SSSI

County: Leicestershire

District: Charnwood

Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as substituted by Schedule 9 to the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

Local Planning Authority: Charnwood Borough Council, Leicestershire County Council

National Grid reference: SK478170

Area: 4.99 ha

Ordnance Survey Sheet: 1:50,000: 129

1:10,000: SK 41 NE

Notification date: 16 October 2012

Reasons for notification:

Ives Head is nationally important for its unique late Neoproterozoic (late Precambrian) geology.

General description:

The site exposes a sequence of graded volcanoclastic sandstones which are part of the Ives Head Formation (Blackbrook Group, Charnian Supergroup). Particularly important are the exposed bedding plane surfaces and their associated environmental features which have been the subject of a number of research investigations.

New analysis techniques have now led to the reinterpretation of the sequence at Ives Head. As such it has become central to our wider understanding of the Precambrian of Charnwood area and our global understanding of the early evolution of late Neoproterozoic and Ediacaran environments. It offers considerable potential for future research and study.