

COUNTY: SOMERSET      SITE NAME: EMBOROUGH QUARRIES

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: MENDIP DISTRICT COUNCIL, Somerset County Council

National Grid Reference: ST 623505      Area: 1.0 (ha.) 2.5 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 183      1:10,000: ST 65 SW, 64 NW

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1971      Date of Last Revision: 1972

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1986      Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

Site area reduced since last Revision.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

Emborough Quarries have yielded a wide variety of remains of vertebrate fossils, amongst which the early reptiles are particularly well represented. Of special note is *Kuehneosaurus latus* which is one of the earliest-known flying vertebrates. During the Triassic period of geological time, some 230 million years ago, the limestones now exposed on Mendip formed upland areas upon which a number of large rivers rose. Solution cavities were soon created in the land surface and material from the surrounding area was swept into the newly formed cave systems. Remains of the creatures living in the upland areas during this time were swept into these deposits and have now been exhumed by recent quarrying activities. Fresh material is brought to the surface with every rock fall and Emborough Quarries are a nationally important source of fossil vertebrate remains for research and study.