

COUNTY: AVON SITE NAME: QUARRY STEPS, DURDHAM DOWN

DISTRICT: BRISTOL

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

Local Planning Authority: AVON COUNTY COUNCIL, Bristol City Council

National Grid Reference: ST 573747 Area: 0.006 (ha.) 0.015 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 172 1:10,000: ST 57 SE

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1990 Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

New site.

Geological Conservation Review site.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

Quarry Steps shows a fissure deposit which is in effect the last remnant of an extensively quarried area (Durdham Down) where the first reptile-bearing fissure deposits were discovered early in the 19th Century.

Two species of the saurischian dinosaur *Thecodontosaurus*, a phytosaur and two species of sphenodontid lizards have been found in fissure fillings of presumed Rhaetian age.

A key site in studies of reptilian history and environments during the early Mesozoic of Britain.