

COUNTY: AVON SITE NAME: BARNHILL QUARRY

DISTRICT: NORTH AVON

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, North Avon District Council

National Grid Reference: ST 725827 Area: 3.1 (ha.) 7.7 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 172 1:10,000: ST 78 SW

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1966 Date of Last Revision: 1974

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

Other Information:

The boundary of this site has been altered at re-notification by extensive deletions. This site contains two Geological Conservation Review Sites.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

The Carboniferous Limestone exposed here spans the Arundian and Holkerian stages of the Visean Series. The section shows the Lower Cromhall Sandstone and Clifton Down Limestone in extensive exposures, which are particularly good for the demonstration of sedimentary structures. The shallow-marine and peritidal limestones of the Clifton Down sequence, which include coral beds and stromatolite horizons, have received detailed study and environmental interpretation. This is an important site for studying and demonstrating the sediments and facies of the Visean limestones in the northern part of the Carboniferous Limestone outcrop.

A 'Rhaetic' section here lies above a spectacularly planed surface of Carboniferous Limestone. The planed edge of the upturned Carboniferous shows karstic grikes where the 'Rhaetic' has been removed by quarrying. Above a Westbury – ?Cotham section is exposed, to a thickness of six metres. This includes a basal 'bone bed' which takes the form of a pebble bed containing vertebrae and teeth. A normal bivalve and fish fauna is richly represented in the overlying shale sequence.

SITE NOTIFIED TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE ON 12 SEPTEMBER 1986