

COUNTY: SOMERSET      SITE NAME: BRUTON RAILWAY CUTTING

DISTRICT: SOUTH SOMERSET

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

Local Planning Authority: SOUTH SOMERSET DISTRICT COUNCIL, Somerset County Council

National Grid Reference: ST 688348      Area: 1.7 (ha.) 4.3 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 183      1:10,000: ST 63 NE, SE

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

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

Other Information:

Site boundary amended by extension.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

Bruton Railway Cutting is internationally recognised as the type-section of the Middle Bathonian standard *morrisi* Zone and is, therefore, a Jurassic locality of great biostratigraphic importance. Both *morrisi* Zone and *subcontractus* Zone ammonites have been obtained from this small exposure, the small size of which has enabled the bed yielding each ammonite specimen to be accurately determined. Bruton Railway Cutting is one of the best sections in England for demonstrating the stratigraphic distinction of *subcontractus* Zone and *morrisi* Zone ammonite faunas.