

COUNTY: EAST SUSSEX

SITE NAME: ASHAM QUARRY

DISTRICT: LEWES

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

Local Planning Authority: LEWES DISTRICT COUNCIL

National Grid Reference: TQ 441059      Area: 2.58 (ha.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 198      1:10,000: TQ 40 NW

Date Notified Under 1981 Act (as amended): 14 July 1993

Date of Last Revision: 4 May 1999

Other Information:

This is a new site and is to be included within a Geological Conservation Review. It is within the Sussex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Natural Area: South Downs

Reasons for Notification:

Asham Quarry is a key site for Quaternary studies, providing critical biostratigraphical and lithostratigraphical evidence for Devensian late-glacial and early Flandrian environmental conditions. The late-glacial deposits, comprising stratified chalky rubble and cryoturbated silts, are overlain by post-glacial palaeosols and colluvium. Detailed studies of molluscan faunas contained in the deposits have allowed a particularly full reconstruction of palaeoenvironmental conditions. Compared with other sites, Asham Quarry is exceptional for the thickness of early and mid-Flandrian deposits present, which has permitted a particularly detailed study of faunal changes during mollusc biozones e and f. It is also exceptional in having yielded a series of radiocarbon dates. Asham Quarry is potentially a key reference site for biostratigraphical studies in SE England.