

SITE NOTIFIED TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE ON 20 MARCH 1987

COUNTY: SOMERSET      SITE NAME: BRIMBLE PIT AND CROSS  
SWALLET BASINS

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: SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL, Mendip District  
Council

National Grid Reference: ST 512505      Area: 154.3 (ha.) 381.3 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 182      1:10,000: ST 55 SW, ST 54 NW

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1967      Date of Last Revision: 1971

Date Notified (Under [1981 Act]): 1987      Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

Site lies within Mendip Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Site boundary amended by extension.

Geological Conservation Review Site.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

The site covers the two adjacent karstic basins draining into Brimble Pit and Cross Swallet. These are the two best defined of the belt of large shallow closed depressions which account for the total topography along the southern edge of the Mendip Hills. The Brimble Pit depression has a large old lake sediment floor now pitted with sinkholes, while the Cross Swallet Basin feeds to a single active sinkhole around which are well preserved terraces of both rock and sediment. Both depressions have marginal cols feeding to overflow channels now permanently dry.

The site also contains important Pleistocene/Quaternary mammal remains within sediments infilling former caverns exposed on the north east face of Westbury Quarry.