

COUNTY: SOMERSET      SITE NAME: HURCOTT FARM

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: SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL, South Somerset District Council

National Grid Reference: ST 511295      Area: 26.3 (ha.) 65.0 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 183      1:10,000: ST 52 NW

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): –      Date of Last Revision: –

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1993      Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

A new site.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

At this site heavily cemented Pleistocene terrace gravels of the River Cary have yielded an abundant freshwater and terrestrial molluscan fauna. The fauna has an interglacial aspect, and includes *Corbicula fluminalis* and *Pisidium clessini*. On the basis of amino-acid dating, the gravels correlate with the glacio-marine Burtle Beds of Somerset and the Ipswichian Interglacial deposits in eastern England. A higher terrace of the Cary at the same locality has yielded a sparse cold-stage molluscan and macroscopic plant assemblage. Lower terraces nearby correlate with the interstadial deposits at Low Ham 6 kilometres to the west. This site is of critical importance as the keystone of the Pleistocene stratigraphy of southern Somerset, and as a freshwater facies-equivalent of the Burtle Beds.