

SITE NOTIFIED TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE ON 22 JUNE 1988

COUNTY: SOMERSET SITE NAME: LOW HAM

DISTRICT: SOUTH SOMERSET DISTRICT

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 440290 Area: 5.06 (ha.) 12.50 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 193 1:10,000: ST 42 NW

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

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1988 Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

A new site. A Geological Conservation Review site.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

This site contains a Pleistocene sedimentary sequence of sands, silts and peats, laid down in the Early Devensian. Mollusca, plant macrofossils and pollen suggest open landscapes but a climate little cooler than that of the present day. There are some signs that the deposits were laid down close to the sea level, which was some four to seven metres above that of the present day; they may correlate with deposits of the 'Low Raised Beach' of South West England. The site forms a rare example of deposits of 'interstadial' facies associated with a high sea level; these are of critical importance for British Pleistocene geology.