

COUNTY: SOMERSET      SITE NAME: SHEPTON MONTAGUE 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: SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL, South Somerset District Council

National Grid Reference: ST 686316      Area: 1.61 (ha.) 3.98 (ac.)

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

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

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1992      Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:  
A new site.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

Shepton Montague Railway Cutting exposes the most important known section of Fuller's Earth Rock (Middle Jurassic) in England. The succession ranges from the upper part of the Lower Fuller's Earth Clay (*progracilis* Zone) up to the Rugitela Beds (*hodsoni* Zone). The sediments are very fossiliferous and have yielded numerous ammonites from three Bathonian ammonite zones -- for which it is a key British locality. In addition, the locality has important research potential in terms of reconstructing the environment of deposition of the Fuller's Earth Rock.