

**COUNTY:** CAMBRIDGESHIRE **SITE NAME:** BARRINGTON PIT

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

**Local Planning Authorities:** South Cambridgeshire District Council  
Cambridgeshire County Council

**National Grid Reference:** TL 383492

**Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000:** 154                      **1:10,000:** TL 34 NE

**Date Notified (Under 1949 Act):** 1959                      **Date of Last Revision:** 1971

**Date Notified (Under 1981 Act):** 1989                      **Date of Last Revision:**

**Area:** 3.7 ha 9.0 ac

**Other information:** This is a 'Geological Conservation Review' site.

### **Description and Reasons for Notification**

This is a site of national importance for its vertebrate fauna.

Barrington Pit is one of the richest and most important mammal localities in the British Isles - most finds having been made around the turn of the century. The deposits in which mammal fauna have been found date from the Pleistocene Period of the Quaternary. Fifteen species are represented including hippopotamus, extinct rhino, extinct straight-tusked elephant, various deer, aurochs, bison, lion and spotted hyaena. Pollen analyses from sediment adhering to museum specimens indicates an Ipswichian Interglacial age (Subzone Ip IIb) but a modern study of the deposits *in situ* is badly needed.