

**COUNTY:** CAMBRIDGESHIRE      **SITE NAME:** UPWARE SOUTH PIT

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

**Local Planning Authorities:** East Cambridgeshire District Council

**National Grid Reference:** TL 539709

**Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000:** 154      **1:10,000:** TL 57 SW

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

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

**Area:** 1.1 ha 2.7 ac

**Other information:** This is a Geological Conservation Review site. Part of the site falls within the biological site known as Cam Washes SSSI.

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

This well known geological locality shows a section through the Oxfordian 'Upware reef'. Its coral-rich facies contrast markedly with the predominant clay-rich facies of east central England, the nearest comparable limestone area with prominent reefs being in the Oxford district. The fauna of the reef, as well as corals, includes more than sixty largely reef-dwelling bivalves and ammonites including the Middle Oxfordian subzonal index *Perisphinctes parianderi* widespread in Europe.

The site is important because it shows its atypical facies thinned against the East Anglian landmass and close faunal connections with Tethys via the London Platform Shoal. These features make this a key site in studies of faunas and palaeogeography in the Oxfordian.