

COUNTY: SUFFOLK      SITE NAME: HOXNE BRICK PIT

DISTRICT: MID SUFFOLK

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

Local Planning Authority: MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

National Grid Reference: TM 174766      Area: 1.27 (ha.) 3.13 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 156      1:10,000: –

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1954      Date of Last Revision: 1966

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 15 March 1990      Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

Description and Reasons for Notification:

Hoxne Brick Pit is a world-famous geological site. Research dates back to the 18th Century, when John Frere recognised that flint implements from here had been fashioned by early man.

Detailed description of the sediments has demonstrated that interglacial lacustrine deposits here occupy a basin in the chalky till and are in turn overlain by fluvial deposits penetrated by ice-wedge casts. The lacustrine deposits, the type deposits of the Hoxnian Interglacial, have been shown by pollen analysis to cover the 'Anglian' late glacial – early Hoxnian (Holl) interval. The upper series of largely fluvial deposits contain abundant vertebrate material attributable to late Hoxnian and Wolstonian Stages. Finds include fishes, voles, Norway lemming, extinct beaver, horse, several deer and a macaque. Sparse finds have also been made in the organic lake deposits of Hoxnian, Zone Holl, age. Hoxne is undoubtedly one of the most important Pleistocene sites in Britain.