

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

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

Local Planning Authorities: Cambridgeshire County Council

National Grid References: TL 399511

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 154 **1:10,000:** TL 35 SE

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

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

Area: 97.23 ha

Other Information

This is a 'Geological Conservation Review' site.

Description and Reasons for Notification

This large quarry has long been noted as the last remaining exposure of the famous Cretaceous 'Cambridge Greensand'. The Greensand is essentially a remanie comprising rolled phosphatic nodules and fossils in a glauconitic chalky matrix. The fauna at Barrington includes brachiopods and fish teeth, but elsewhere in the region the Cambridge Greensand was formerly known as a source of fossils, especially vertebrate remains. The Greensand rests on an eroded surface of Upper Gault Clay (Upper Albian) and although forming the basal part of the Upper Cretaceous (Cenomanian) succession, much of the fauna is likely to be derived from the Upper Albian. Nevertheless, epifauna or some of the phosphatic pebbles, including bivalves, would indicate some indigenous faunal elements. Overlying the Cambridge Greensand is a thick sequence of Lower Chalk, including Chalk Marl and Tottenhoe Stone.

The site has great stratigraphical importance for studies of the Upper Cretaceous of eastern England as well as including the best surviving exposures of the geologically famous Cambridge Greensand.