

COUNTY: BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

SITE NAME: SOUTH LODGE PIT

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

Local Planning Authorities: Buckinghamshire County Council, South Bucks District Council

National Grid Reference: SU90548193

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 175 **1:10,000:** SU98 SW

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1951 **Date of Last Revision:** 1975

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1986 **Date of Last Revision:**

Area: 0.53 ha 1.32 ac

Description and Reasons for Notification

South Lodge Pit exposes part of the only known British example of a late Santonian-early Campanian chalk phosphorite (calcium phosphate) deposit. This is directly comparable to the late Cretaceous deposits of the Paris Basin where granular phosphates fill channels cut into normal white chalk. These chalk phosphorites are variable and contain a distinctive range of lithofacies; several of these rock types are displayed here. The brown phosphate chalks are also rich in certain fossils making the site of great interest palaeontologically.