

COUNTY: EAST/WEST SUSSEX SITE NAME: SCAYNES HILL

DISTRICT: LEWES (E. SUSSEX)/MID-SUSSEX (W. SUSSEX)

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

Local Planning Authority: LEWES DISTRICT COUNCIL, Mid-Sussex District Council

National Grid Reference: TQ 391228 Area: 0.04 (ha.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 198 1:10,000: TQ 32 SE

Date Notified Under 1981 Act (as amended): 4 May 1999

Other Information:

A Geological Conservation Review (GCR) site

Natural Area:

Low Weald

Description and Reasons for Notification:

The disused quarry and road section at Scaynes Hill exposes yellow sandstone of the Cuckfield Sandstone Member which lies within the Grinstead Clay Formation (upper Hastings Beds Group, Wealden Series). The Cuckfield Sandstone is a lenticular unit of fine grained sandstone which is found throughout much of the outcrop of the Grinstead Clay, dividing the Formation into Lower and Upper Members.

The Cuckfield Stone was deposited by a meandering river system and, along the length of its outcrop, displays sedimentary features typical of the Wealden flood plain. At Scaynes Hill the Cuckfield Stone is dominated by trough cross-bedding which is characteristic of a meander channel belt. The sedimentary evidence from the Cuckfield Stone at Scaynes Hill is vital in demonstrating the meandering nature of this river lain sandstone and understanding the wider environment of the Wealden Grinstead Clay Formation.