

County: Hertfordshire **Site Name:** Moor Mill Quarry, West

District: City and District of St. Albans

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

Local Planning Authority: St. Albans City and District Council

National Grid Reference: TL 141027 **Area:** 0.16 (ha) 0.40 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1: 50 000: 166 **1: 10 000:** TL 10 SW

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

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 26.03.1992 **Date of Last Revision:** -

Other Information:

This new site has been notified as adequately representing the interest of Moor Mill Quarry SSSI which will be lost to landfill operations.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

The pit shows a complex sequence of Pleistocene (Pre-Anglian - Anglian) deposits overlying the chalk. The lowest of these is fluvial gravel of Thames origin, above which are lacustrine laminated silts, in turn being overlain by chalky glacial till. Above the till is a second gravel, differing from the first in that it was deposited by a westerly flowing river, probably the Colne. This sequence has been interpreted as representing the blocking of the pre-Anglian Thames Valley by ice, resulting in the formation of a lake, which was later overrun by a further advance of ice, culminating in the diversion of the Thames into its modern valley, and the initiation of Colne drainage in the area. This is the only site at which this sequence can be demonstrated, and as such is of fundamental importance in tracing the diversion of the River Thames from its pre-Anglian course.