COUNTY: NORTHAMPTONSHIRE          SITE NAME: COWTHICK QUARRY

District: Corby

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

Local Planning Authority: Corby District Council

National Grid Reference: SP 924883
 SP 926877

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 141 1:10,000: SP 98 NW

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1981  Date of Last Revision: 1970

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1985  Date of Last Revision:

Area: 1.35 ha 3.33 ac

Other Information: This site is identified as of national importance in the Geological Conservation Review.

Description and Reasons for Notification

A site of national importance for its geology. Cowthick exposes the best and most instructive sections of their kind in the Middle Jurassic rocks of the Midlands. Its section consists of the Northamptonshire Ironstone, Grantham Formation and Lincolnshire Limestone. The latter is developed as channel infillings cutting in to the underlying Grantham Formation. The northern channel fill includes unique Lower Lincolnshire Limestone below Upper Lincolnshire Limestone, as well as high relief hardgrounds. The southern channel is affected by a major Pleistocene Fault structure which brings about the juxtaposition of six Jurassic formations, from the Upper Lias to the Upper Estuarine ‘Series’.