

County: South Yorkshire **Site Name:** Stairfoot Brickworks

District: Barnsley

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

Local Planning Authority: Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council

National Grid Reference: SE 381048 **Area:** 0.0994 (ha)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 110 **1:10,000:** SE 30 SE, NE

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 5 July 1999

Other Information:

A new site. A Geological Conservation Review (GCR) site.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

Stairfoot Brickworks lies about 3 kilometres east-south-east of Barnsley.

The site contains exposures of the Aegiranum Marine Band which marks the Duckmantian-Bolsoviaian stage boundary of the Westphalian Series. The marine band is about 4 metres thick, and consists of black and blue-grey shales and mudstones which overlie a thin coal and seat earth. While the lower and upper parts of the marine band only contain fish fragments and *Naiadites* bivalves, the middle part of the marine band contains a fauna which includes an assemblage of ammonoids (including the index species *Donetzoceras aegiranum*, as well as numerous nautiloids, pectinoid bivalves, gastropods and crinoids.

The site provides the best available exposure of the Aegiranum Marine Band within the Pennine Basin as well as the best known exposure of the ammonoid bearing part of the marine band in the world. The site is particularly good for the study of the index species *Donetzoceras aegiranum* and numerous well-preserved adults and juveniles are preserved.

The Aegiranum Marine Band at Stairfoot Brickworks is an internationally important horizon for the stratigraphical correlation of the Westphalian Series across much of north-west Europe.