

File ref: SE 14/4

County: West Yorkshire

Site Name: Great Dib Wood

District: Leeds

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

Local Planning Authority: Leeds City Council

National Grid Reference: SE 199443 **Area:** 1.1 (ha) 2.7 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 104 **1:10,000:** SE 14 SE; SE 24 SW

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

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1984 **Date of Last Revision:** –

Other Information:

This is a new site.

Description:

A natural cliff section displaying two Namurian sandstones separated by an extremely fossiliferous series of mudstones and limestones, constituting the Otley Shell Bed. This bed of presumed Kinderscoutian age contains a very broad selection of fossils, with virtually all marine groups represented. It is of particular interest as the Otley Shell Bed is one of the stratigraphically youngest horizons to yield trilobites at surface exposures in Britain.

In layman's terms, the interest of this site may be expressed more simply, and such a statement is provided below. This should not be taken as definitive and further information as to details of the interest can be obtained from the Nature Conservancy Council.

This site provides exposures of rocks of the Namurian Series, formed during the Carboniferous Period of geological history about 320 million years ago. Two sandstone layers are exposed, separated by a layer of mudstone and limestone known as the Otley Shell Bed which is rich in the fossilised remains of the animals that inhabited the Carboniferous sea. This fossil-rich bed is of great geological interest principally because of the variety of fossils it contains, but also because it is one of the youngest rock-layers known to contain the remains of a now-extinct group of animals known as trilobites.

Operations likely to damage the special interest

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OLD1001776

Ref. No.	Type of Operation
7	Dumping, spreading or discharge of any materials.
12	The introduction of or changes in tree and/or woodland management ⁺ .
21	Construction, removal or destruction of roads, tracks, walls, fences, hardstands, banks, ditches or other earthworks, or the laying, maintenance or removal of pipelines and cables, above or below ground.
22	Storage of materials on or against rock faces or outcrops.
23	Erection of permanent or temporary structures, or the undertaking of engineering works, including drilling.
24	Modification of natural or man-made features (including cave entrances), clearance of boulders, large stones, loose rock or scree and battering, buttressing or grading rock-faces and cuttings, infilling of pits and quarries.
⁺	including afforestation, planting, clear and selective felling, thinning, coppicing, modification of the stand or underwood, changes in species composition, cessation of management.