

COUNTY: CAMBRIDGESHIRE **SITE NAME:** ROSWELL PITS

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

Local Planning Authorities: East Cambridgeshire District Council

National Grid Reference: TL 550805 to TL 555811

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 143 **1:10,000:** TL 58 SW

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1984 **Date of Last Revision:**

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

Area: 6.3 ha 15.6 ac

Other information: This is a 'Geological Conservation Review' site and a new addition to the Cambridgeshire Schedule.

Description and Reasons for Notification

The Roswell Pits represent the best reptile locality in the northern outcrop of the Kimmerage Clay. The site has yielded type specimens of three species and it is important for turtles (1 species), crocodiles (3 species), sauropod dinosaurs (1 species), plesiosaurs (1 species) and ichthyosaurs (1 species).

The sauropod dinosaur is represented by several limb bones and these will be useful in a re-study of the group. The pliosaur remains have proved to be the key to a recent taxonomic review. The Roswell Pits have yielded a rich reptile fauna that differs from the faunas from Dorset, Wiltshire and Oxfordshire, and finds are still being made.