COUNTY: SOMERSET SITE NAME: LAMB LEER

DISTRICT: MENDIP

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

Local Planning Authority: SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL, Mendip District Council

National Grid Reference: ST 544550 Area: 14.59 (ha.) 36.04 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 172, 183 1:10,000: ST 55 NW, ST 55 SW

Date of Proposed Notification: 1983

Other Information:
Eastern part of site already notified an SSSI under The National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949.

Technical Description
The site covers a completely fossil cave system which contains one of the two largest chambers on Mendip. The geology of the cave is atypical of Mendip, with fault influenced development in the limestones well above any control exerted by the underlying shales. The high altitude phreatic development of the cave is evidence of its considerable age, and the sediments within it provide a geomorphic record through much of the Pleistocene and maybe into the Tertiary.

Simplified Statement of Interest
(This statement should not be taken as definitive. Further information as to details of the interest can be obtained from the Nature Conservancy Council).

Lamb Leer Cavern is a fragment of a very ancient major cave system which now contains one of the largest chambers on Mendip. The system is dry, lying well above the present day water-table, and it is thought that the passages may well have originated before the Ice Age (Pleistocene Period) began. Sediments preserved in the caves are important as they allow geologists to study the record of the changing environmental conditions which occurred over this long period of time.