

**CYNGOR CEFN GWLAD CYMRU
COUNTRYSIDE COUNCIL FOR WALES**

SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION

MONMOUTHSHIRE

GOLDEN HILL QUARRY, DEVAUDEN

Date of Notification: 1961, 1990

National Grid Reference: ST 431971

O.S. Maps: 1:50,000 Sheet number: 171
1:25,000 Sheet number: ST 49

Site Area: 0.3 ha

Description:

The volcanic neck exposed in Golden Hill Quarry is the most southerly major occurrence of mantle derived xenoliths in Britain. The neck, of probable Lower Carboniferous age, is composed of vent agglomerate and massive monchiquitic basanite. Both rock types contain abundant mantle xenoliths and megacrysts. The xenolithic rocks include lherzolite, harzburgite and wehrnite. The megacrysts include clinopyroxene, orthopyroxene, spinel and phlogopite. These materials provide a unique insight into the mantle composition under southern Britain during the Carboniferous Period and for this reason the site is of national importance.

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