

SITE

Name: Ivybridge & the Erme Valley

Parish: Ivybridge and Ermington

Local Authority: South Hams

National Grid Ref: SX 633 557 - 643 558 - 633 589

OS Sheets: 1:50k 202 1:10k SX65 NW, **GS Sheet** 1:50k 349

Locality Description: Ivybridge town area and the valley of the River Erme to the north and south.

Nature and Status of Site: River valley and gorge crossing the margin of the Dartmoor Granite. A County Geological Site.

Summary of Geological / Geomorphological Interest: This site is of importance because it displays a range of readily accessible geological/geomorphological features. Contact between the Dartmoor Granite and the metamorphosed sediments on its margins is rarely so well exposed. The surrounding country rocks have been increasingly altered as the granite was intruded. The boulder outwash fan, probably of glacial age, is a large geomorphological and geological feature unmatched in southern England and one of the best of its kind in the UK.

Safety Considerations: Generally safe. Care is required near the river, particularly in times of high flow.

Educational Age Groups: Primary, Secondary, College/6th Form, University.

Parking and Access: Public car parks available in Ivybridge. Some on-road parking available opposite Stowford Mill and below the railway viaduct. Easy access by public roads and footpaths. Some parts of the area examined are accessible to the disabled with assistance.

References:

Gilbertson, D D and Sims, P C, 1974, **Some Pleistocene Deposits and Landforms at Ivybridge, Devon**. Proceedings of the Geologists Association, Vol. 85, pp. 65-77.

Gilbertson, D D, 1973. **The Construction of Hedgebanks at Filham Moor, Ivybridge**. Quarterly Journal of the Devon Trust for Nature Conservation. Vol. 5, pp. 41-4 .

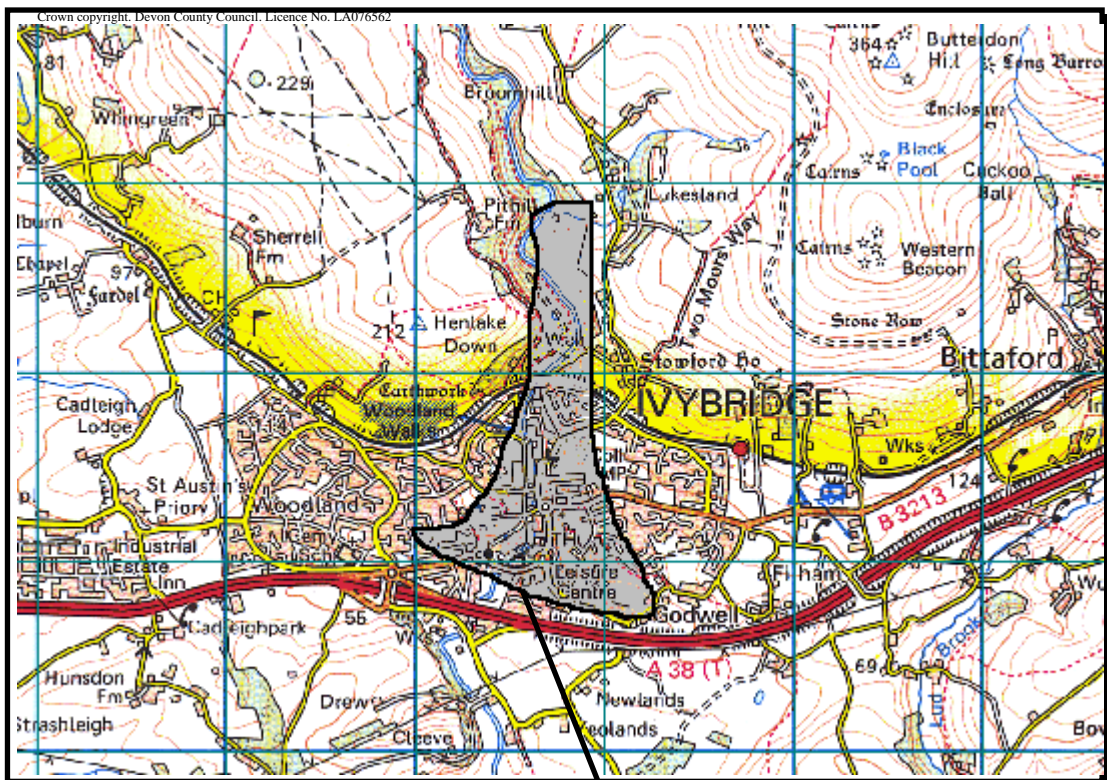
Guide to the Erme Valley, South Hams Environment Service, South Hams District Council.

Detailed Geology: Dartmoor Granite, lithological variations at margin. Contact between granite and metamorphosed sediments (Carboniferous). Further exposures showing decreasing grade of thermal metamorphism in Carboniferous and Devonian slates. Boulder and cobble alluvium above knick-point at head of the Erme Gorge and rapids down stream. A large boulder outwash fan extending from the mouth of the Erme Gorge with a probable Pleistocene (Ice age) date. Its presence and extent is indicated by the use of the boulders in old field banks and as building material in the lower parts of Ivybridge.

LOCATION PLAN

IVYBRIDGE AND THE ERME VALLEY IVYBRIDGE/ERMINGTON, SOUTH HAMS

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Scale 1: 40,000



Site locality

Ivybridge town area and the Valley of the River Erme to the north and south

Parking and Access

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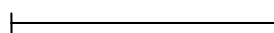
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Approx. Extent of Site



1 km

Main Points of Interest:

- **Exceptional exposures of the contact between the Dartmoor Granite and the altered metamorphosed sediments on its margins.**
- **One of the best examples in the UK of a boulder outwash fan, probably of glacial age, which is now seen in the old field banks and as a traditional building material in the southern parts of Ivybridge.**