

COUNTY: HEREFORD & WORCESTER

SITE NAME: LITTLE HILL

DISTRICT: SOUTH HEREFORDSHIRE

SITE REF: 15 WE3

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

Local Planning Authority: HEREFORD & WORCESTER COUNTY COUNCIL, South Herefordshire District Council

National Grid Reference: SO 608383

Area: 5.75 (ha.) 14.2 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 149

1:10,000: SO 63 NW

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): –

Date of Last Revision: –

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1986

Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

New site.

Reasons for Notification:

Rock outcrops within this site provide valuable exposures of Wenlock Limestone, formed about 410 million years ago during the Silurian Period. The limestones originally accumulated as lime, mud and sand on the bed of a warm shallow sea. At the time, Britain was situated nearer to the equator than at present and the climate was tropical or subtropical. The Wenlock sea thus contained abundant marine life, much of which is now represented as well preserved fossils in the limestones. In places, coral colonies built up reef mounds on the sea bed and these are preserved as masses of rather homogeneous limestone, sometimes known as ballstones. In between the reef mounds are thinly bedded limestone sequences. This is an important site for studies of the Wenlock Limestone, enabling comparisons to be made with other similar occurrences as far apart as the West Midlands and South Wales.