COUNTY: HEREFORD & WORCESTER SITE NAME: LINTON QUARRY

DISTRICT: SOUTH HEREFORDSHIRE SITE REF: 15 WRD

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 677257 Area: 1.2 (ha.) 2.9 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 162 1:10,000: SO 62 NE

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1969 Date of Last Revision: 1979

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1990 Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:
Site boundary alteration (extension and reduction).

Description and Reasons for Notification:
Linton Quarry contains the most accessible, best available and best documented Silurian rocks in the Gorsley inlier, which are important in interpreting the palaeogeography and evolution of the southern Welsh Borderland during the Wenlock and Ludlow times. It exposes the Gorsley Limestone which forms the base of the succession in the quarry. Since the time of Murchison the Gorsley Limestone has been variously regarded as the equivalent of the Wenlock Limestone, or the equivalent of the younger Aymestrey Limestone (Gorstian Stage), of mid-Ludlow age (Upper Silurian). Opinion is still somewhat divided though the consensus is that it is the same age as the Wenlock Limestone.

Linton Quarry also exposes rocks of undisputed Ludlow age which are of particular interest in being very condensed compared with the more normal thickness of Ludlow deposits present in the adjacent Silurian inliers at Woolhope and May Hill. The Ludlow sequence at Linton Quarry, a 6 m section comprising the Lower and Upper Siltstones, the Pridoli Upper Phosphatic Pebble Bed and Clifford’s Mesne Sandstone, provides evidence that this area was probably a depositional high (the Gorsley Axis), or an area of active uplift during Ludlow times. This evidence is provided by the presence of unconformities (major breaks in sedimentation) between the formations. Additional interest is provided by the siltstones which contain large fragments of land plants and a diverse, abundant and well-preserved spore assemblage.