COUNTY: KENT SITE NAME: OAKEN WOOD

BOROUGH: MAIDSTONE

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

Local Planning Authority: MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

National Grid Reference: TQ 702549 Area: 17.7 (ha.) 43.73 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 188 1:10,000: TQ 65 SE, TQ 75 SW
TQ 75 NW

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): – Date of Last Revision: –

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1985 Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:
A new site.
This is a Geological Conservation Review site.

Reasons for Notification:
Oaken Wood is a key geomorphological site. It provides the best example in Britain of ridge and trough topography produced by intense cambering and gulling during the Pleistocene (tilting and cracking of surface rock outcrops by periglacial processes or deformation of underlying weaker strata). The ridge crests rise up to 8 m above the level of the trough floors, which extend for about 0.5 km in an east-west direction. This unusual type of topography is confined to the Maidstone area and the north Cotswolds and is most spectacularly developed at Oaken Wood.