

COUNTY: HEREFORD & WORCESTER

SITE NAME: WAYNE HERBERT
QUARRY

DISTRICT: SOUTH HEREFORDSHIRE

SITE REF: 15 WTT

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

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

National Grid Reference: SO 335320

Area: 0.2 (ha.) 0.5 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 161

1:10,000: SO 33 SW

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1952

Date of Last Revision: 1975

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1986

Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

Description and Reasons for Notification:

In the 1930's a siltstone lens here yielded complete, articulated specimens of many species of early Devonian fossil 'fish'. Other disarticulated material was collected from the related sandstones. Wayne Herbert is the type locality for five species. These creatures lived in rivers and their remains have almost always been preserved as separate plates and fragments laid down during deposition in an actively flowing river. It is highly unusual to find them in a complete state resulting from preservation in a dried up, ephemeral pool. This provides us with a sample of fish preserved en masse, showing growth stages and predator-prey relationships. (An acanthodian contains a cephalaspid within it.) The acanthodians are the earliest known complete specimens of their kind. A piece of a thelodont is one of only four specimens of articulated thelodont in Britain (although they have been found elsewhere, in Canada and the USSR). Pteraspids, found here form the basis of all reconstructions of pteraspids and also other heterostracans. These specimens have added greatly to our ability to interpret the morphology of these early 'fish', which are found normally as disarticulated plates, scales and spines. This is a key site for the study of fossil vertebrates.