

COUNTY: SHROPSHIRE

SITE NAME: ONNY RIVER SECTION

DISTRICT: South Shropshire

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

Local Planning Authority: SHROPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL, South Shropshire District Council

National Grid Reference: SO 425854

Area: 3.16 (ha.) 7.8 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 137

1:10,000: SO 48 NW

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1954

Date of Last Revision: 1963

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1985

Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

Boundary alteration (reduction).

Reasons for Notification:

This is a classic geological locality providing important exposures of rocks of the Caradoc Series of the Ordovician System. The rock outcrops are recognised as the standard or type-section of the Actonian and Onnian Stages of the Ordovician Period. The site also includes the famous Onny River cliff section showing the discordant contact between these Ordovician rocks and overlying rocks of the Silurian System. This site is of great historical interest, forming part of the area in which the Caradoc Series was originally defined. In addition, the rocks are richly fossiliferous, containing many species of brachiopods, trilobites and, more rarely, graptolites. A number of trilobite and brachiopod species were first defined from material collected here. This is an outstanding and nationally important site for geological studies of Ordovician rocks.