

COUNTY: SHROPSHIRE

SITE NAME: CLEE HILL QUARRIES

DISTRICT: South Shropshire

SITE REF: 15WDK

Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified (Under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act) 1961 as amended

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

National Grid Reference: SO 594761

Area: 63.45 (ha.) 156.78 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 138

1:10,000: SO 57 NE

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): –

Date of Last Revision: –

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1992

Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

New site.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

Sporadic, and localised, episodes of igneous activity characterised the English Midlands and the Peak District during the Carboniferous Period.

The quarries at Clee Hill provide excellent exposures of the Clee Hills Sill, which was emplaced into unconsolidated Coal Measure sediments. The exposures are notable for providing fresh, nepheline normative olivine-dolerites, which show geochemical evidence for being part of more than one magmatic lineage.

The three quarries in the site are important in illustrating the mechanism of sill emplacement, and the relationship between alkaline magmatism, tectonics and sedimentation in the later stages of the Carboniferous Period in the Midlands. In the so-called 'granite' quarry the upper contact of the sill is well exposed. The two other quarries provide good sections through the sill, and the transgressive character of the intrusion can be demonstrated.