

COUNTY: SHROPSHIRE

SITE NAME: CRAIG SYCHTYN

DISTRICT: Oswestry

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

Local Planning Authority: SHROPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL, Oswestry Borough Council

National Grid Reference: SJ 232258

Area: 5.67 (ha.) 14 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 126

1:10,000: SJ 22 NW

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): –

Date of Last Revision: –

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1984

Date of last Revision: –

Other Information:

New site.

Reasons for Notification:

A west-facing Carboniferous limestone crag with woodland, scrub, grassland and rock face communities.

Much of the site consists of woodland, dominated mainly by ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and hazel *Corylus avellana*. Wych elm *Ulmus glabra*, small-leaved lime *Tilia cordata* and wild service tree *Sorbus torminalis*, a rare species in this area, also occur. The flora of the woodland also includes columbine *Aquilegia vulgaris*, stinking iris *Iris foetidissima* and woodruff *Galium odoratum*.

Open communities occur mainly at the top of the cliff as small patches of grassland surrounded by scrub. Plants characteristic of limestone, including pyramidal orchid *Anacamptis pyramidalis*, frog orchid *Coeloglossum viride*, wild basil *Clinopodium vulgare*, marjoram *Origanum vulgare* and hairy violet *Viola hirta*, are present in these communities. The uncommon yellow rock stonecrop *Sedum forsteranum*, which is characteristic of base-rich soils in the Welsh Border Country, is also found here.