

COUNTY: SHROPSHIRE

SITE NAME: DEVIL'S HOLE, MORVILLE

DISTRICT: Bridgnorth

SITE REF: 15WRI

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

Local Planning Authority: SHROPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL, Bridgnorth District Council

National Grid Reference: SO 672929

Area: 2.9 (ha.) 7.1 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 138

1:10,000: SO 69 SE

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): –

Date of Last Revision: –

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1986

Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

New site.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

This section through rocks of the Old Red Sandstone includes four horizons which are important sources of fossils of primitive fish. Their varying faunal content charts the sequence of evolutionary changes that occurred through the passage from the Downtonian to the Dittonian (and thus the Silurian to the Devonian). This is an interesting and critical period, and the changes in faunal assemblages which occurred are a reflection of the geographical and ecological changes which were going on at the time. Recently collected fossil material from this site is providing important new evidence in several fields of vertebrate palaeontology. Better preserved material is found here of species previously described from much poorer specimens found elsewhere. This material is important in the study of the morphology of some of the known fossil fish whilst a number of new species await description.

This is an important site for studies of primitive fish crossing the Silurian-Devonian boundary.