

COUNTY: SHROPSHIRE

SITE NAME: COUNDMOOR BROOK

DISTRICT: Shrewsbury & Atcham

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

Local Planning Authority: SHROPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL, Shrewsbury & Atcham Borough Council

National Grid Reference: SJ 558037

Area: 4.4 (ha.) 10.9 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 126

1:10,000: SJ 50 SE

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): –

Date of Last Revision: –

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1985

Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

New site.

Reasons for Notification:

This is a nationally important geological site providing exposures of fossiliferous rocks of Ordovician age. The rock exposures in the stream section are regarded as the standard or type-section for the Harnagian Stage, one of the subdivisions of the Ordovician Period. During this period of geological history, this area lay on the eastern edge of a deep ocean basin occupying most of Wales, whilst shallower 'shelf' seas extended eastwards over the Midlands. Fossil organisms characteristic of both deep and shallow marine environments can be found in the rocks of Coundmoor Brook, enabling detailed comparisons to be made between the two environments. In addition a number of species of trilobites were first collected and described from this locality.