

COUNTY: SHROPSHIRE

SITE NAME: TAR GROVE QUARRY

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 525780

Area: 0.4 (ha.) 1 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 137

1:10,000: SO 57 NW

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): –

Date of Last Revision: –

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1985

Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

New site.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

This quarry yields one of the most diverse known assemblages of fossil plants of Gedinnian (Lower Devonian) age, consisting of about 20 species of algae, nematophytes (primitive non-vascular plants) and primitive vascular plants. The specimens are unusually well preserved, and yield information on the cell structure of the plants. The flora is the subject of much active research and is also of historical interest, since it was from here that, in 1937, W H Lang described specimens which, until the discovery of similar material in the Ludlow beds of South Wales, was the oldest indisputable evidence of a vascular plant. Thus, from the point of view of both its historical interest and its present research potential, this site is of great international importance.