

COUNTY: SHROPSHIRE

SITE NAME: HOPE VALLEY

DISTRICT: South Shropshire

SITE REF: 15WC3

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, South Shropshire District Council

National Grid Reference: SJ 342015, SJ 357021

Area: 4.7 (ha.) 11.7 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 126

1:10,000: SJ 30 SW, SJ 30 SE

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1963

Date of Last Revision: –

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1987

Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

Incorporates two former sites known as Hope Road Section and Hope Mill Quarry and Stream Section.

Site boundary alteration (extension & reduction).

Description and Reasons for Notification:

Hope Valley is of great importance for its exposures of Ordovician rocks, and for the unconformable contact between them and the overlying Silurian strata. It represents the best Lower Llanvirn section in the Shelve Inlier.

Localities within the site have some of the richest faunas in the British Llanvirn Series, rivalling such localities as the famous Llanvirn Quarry, although Hope has distinct faunal peculiarities of its own. The site also shows the unconformable contact of the Llandovery Venusbank Formation (Silurian) and the Hope Shales (Ordovician). The Silurian has a conglomeratic base, including clasts (fragments, of Ordovician rocks, and a rich brachiopod fauna.

This is the type locality for the Hope Shales and for a number of species of the microfossils known as conodonts which are found in these deposits.

Hope Valley is a key site which is nationally important stratigraphically and palaeontologically, and which displays a regionally significant unconformity.