

County: Shropshire, Powys

Site name: Spy Wood & Aldress
Dingle

District: South Shropshire, Montgomery

Site ref: Site Ref: 15WHC

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, Powys County Council, South Shropshire District Council, Montgomery District Council

National Grid Reference: SO 279959

Area: 8.5 (ha) 21.0 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet: 1:50,000: 137

1:10,000: SO 29 NE

Date notified (Under 1949 Act): 1953

Date of last revision: 1963

Date notified (under 1981 Act): 1986

Date of last revision: 1993

Other information:

Site boundary alteration (extension)

Description and reasons for notification:

This site provides an outstanding cross-section through a large proportion of the middle to upper Ordovician rock succession of the Shelve area. These stream sections have been recently reinterpreted and expose a section that includes the Meadowtown Formation and Rorrington Shale Formation (of the Llandeilo Series) and the Spy Wood Sandstone Formation, Aldress Shale Formation, Hagley Volcanic Formation and Hagley Shale Formation (of the Caradoc Series). The rock exposures are designated as the standard or type sections of the Spy Wood Sandstone and Aldress Shale formations. The site is richly fossiliferous and particularly rich in graptolites, which have been the subject of a recent monograph. A number of species of trilobites and graptolites were first defined from specimens collected here. Fifteen species of graptolites representing the fauna of the *Glyptograptus teretiusculus* Biozone, the *Nemagraptus gracilis* Biozone and the *Diplograptus multidentis* Biozone have been recorded from Deadman's and Spy Wood Dingles. The site is of great importance in correlating the Llandeilo Series of the Shelve Inlier with the Llandeilo strata of other areas in Britain.