

COUNTY: SHROPSHIRE

SITE NAME: OLD RIVER BED, SHREWSBURY

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 497148

Area: 15.05 (ha.) 37.2 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 126

1:10,000: SJ 41 NE, 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:

Part of the former bed of the River Severn, which has been cut off from the main course of the river since the last glaciation. The Old River Bed is of particular value for the extensive sedge fen which now fills this cut-off meander. Although differing in its mode of origin, the Old River Bed is complementary to other wetland sites in North Shropshire.

Most of the site is dominated by lesser pond-sedge *Carex acutiformis*. Other areas are dominated by common reed *Phragmites australis*, great reedmace *Typha latifolia* or water horsetail *Equisetum fluviatile*. Other species include meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria*, soft rush *Juncus effusus* and sharp-flowered rush *J. acutiflorus*, which are abundant, and less frequently, water avens *Geum rivale*, bottle sedge *Carex rostrata*, brown sedge *C. disticha* and marsh cinquefoil *Potentilla palustris*.

The site includes areas of scrub and a series of ditches.