COUNTY: NORTHAMPTONSHIRE       SITE NAME: UPPER CHERWELL AT TRAFFORD HOUSE

District: South Northamptonshire

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

Local Planning Authority: South Northamptonshire District Council

National Grid Reference: SP 528487

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 151, 152 1:10,000: SP 54 NW

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): Date of Last Revision:

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1992 Date of Last Revision:

Area: 18.6 ha 45.8 ac

Other Information: This is a new site identified as of national importance in the ‘Geological Conservation Review’.

Description and Reasons for Notification

The site lies approximately 3 km to the east of Chipping Warden, close to Trafford House. It is centred on the confluence of the upper River Cherwell and Eydon Brook.

The Upper Cherwell and Eydon Brook are excellent examples of underfit streams. Their channel dimensions are small in comparison with those of the valleys they occupy and the active floodplains are contained within large valley palaeomeanders. Deposits in an infilled palaeochannel in the Cherwell floodplain include alluvial and organic sediments which have significant potential for the reconstruction of environmental history. In conjunction with the River Itchen, this site has played an important role in the development of the theory of underfit streams.