

COUNTY: SUFFOLK      SITE NAME: RAMSHOLT CLIFF

DISTRICT: SUFFOLK COASTAL

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

Local Planning Authority: SUFFOLK COASTAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

National Grid Reference: TM 298428      Area: 2.1 (ha.) 5.1 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 169      1:10,000: TM 24 SE

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): N/A      Date of Last Revision: N/A

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1987      Date of Last Revision: N/A

Other Information:

This is a new site.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

The Coralline Crag at this locality can be seen resting unconformably on irregular, erosional surface of London Clay, and to be overstepped by Red Crag where it comes to rest directly on London Clay. At the base of the Coralline Crag the phosphorite deposit (a 'coprolite bed' or 'Suffolk bone-bed') can be seen. This is the only locality where the Coralline Crag phosphorite deposit can be examined, and is also probably the only existing locality where the 'boxstones', phosphatic remnants of a Miocene formation can be seen *in situ*. The section at Ramsholt represents the most southerly and, paleoecologically, probably the most near-shore Coralline Crag deposited in East Anglia.

The fauna is rich and well preserved and contains a number of uncommon species. Amongst these the most notable are the Large Barnacle *Balanus concavus*, the Coral *Cryptangia woodii* and large colonies of the Bryozoan *Turbicellepora* which forms the substrate for *C. woodii*. Many species of aragonitic mollusc are also found. This locality described by Charlesworth was the basis for his sub-division of the Suffolk Crag deposits and for the distinction of the 'Coralline' Crag as a new and distinct stratigraphical division. This site is therefore of extreme importance historically and for the number of sedimentological and palaeontological features and exhibits.