

COUNTY: SUFFOLK      SITE NAME: CRAG PIT, ALDEBURGH

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 458580      Area: 0.8 (ha.) 1.9 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 156      1:10,000: TM 45 NE

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

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1987      Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

A new site.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

This site is of geological interest because it represents the most northerly existing exposure of Pliocene Coralline Crag. The deposit, which is up to 2.5 metres high, is of horizontally bedded Crag with prominent solution pipes in the upper surface.

No aragonite fauna is present (due to post-depositional solution) but the calcitic fauna is both very abundant and exceptionally well preserved. A rich and diverse bryozoan fauna is present and is particularly notable for the abundance of finely preserved encrusting species found growing on the *Chlamys* valves which are common at this locality. The fauna includes other encrusting species such as serpulids and a number of boring forms. Evidence of such extensive bioerosion and encrustation is restricted to the most northerly Coralline Crag exposures. The large bryozoans *Blumenbachium globusum* and *Meandropora* are common at this locality. The site provides one of the most abundant and diverse faunas of the Coralline Crag and is of great palaeontological and sedimentological interest.