



The Lower Kimmeridge Clay (*baylei*, *cymodoce*, *mutabilis* Zones) of Smallmouth Sands has yielded one of the most varied Kimmeridgian reptile faunas. It is the best site for forms such as the turtles (4 species) and the pterosaurs (3 species). The specimens collected include type specimens of one turtle, two pterosaurs, one sauropod, one ichthyosaur, and possibly a plesiosaur. A key site with a fauna complementing the Kimmeridge Clay vertebrate fauna of the type section in the Isle of Purbeck.

The causeway along the south western shore of the Harbour supports extensive, rich maritime grassland, similar to that in the adjacent Chesil and the Fleet SSSI. Characteristic species include sea couch *Elymus pycnanthus*, thrift *Armeria maritima*, sand sedge *Carex arenaria* and the local Portland spurge *Euphorbia portlandica*. There are also patches of saltmarsh vegetation with the uncommon shrubby seablite *Suaeda vera*.

Site Notified to Secretary of State on 10 July 1987