

County: Humberside **Site Name:** Dimlington Cliff

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

Local Planning Authority: Holderness Borough Council

National Grid Reference: TA 390220

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 107 **1:10,000:** TA 32 SE

Area: 54.7 (ha) 135.2 (ac)

First Notified: 1990

Description:

Dimlington is a key site for Quaternary stratigraphy. The cliff section shows a sequence, from the base of the cliffs upwards of: pre-late Devensian Basement Till; organic silts and sands (Dimlington silts); Late Devensian Skipsea and Withernsea Tills, locally with interbedded sands and silts; and a well developed Flandrian weathering profile.

The site is important for several reasons. Firstly, organic remains in the Dimlington Silts have yielded radiocarbon dates of $18,500 \pm 400$ BP (before present) and $18,240 \pm 240$ BP and provide not only a record of palaeoenvironmental conditions but also a limiting date for the maximum expansion of Late Devensian ice. Because of good-stratigraphic and dating evidence from Dimlington and nearby sites, the term Dimlington Stadial has been proposed recently as a climatostratigraphic name for the main Late Devensian glaciation, and Dimlington Chronozone for the equivalent time period between 26,000 and 13,000 BP. Secondly, Dimlington provides valuable exposures in the Basement Till which includes Scottish and Scandinavian erratics and masses of fossiliferous Bridlington Crag transported from the floor of the North Sea. Thirdly, the site is important from a glaciological viewpoint in providing sedimentary evidence for the superimposition of two till units associated with a single ice sheet.

Other Information:

This site is identified as being of national importance in the Geological Conservation Review.