

COUNTY: Devon

SITE NAME: DAWLISH CLIFFS

DISTRICT:

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

Local Planning Authority: Devon County Council, Teignbridge District Council

National Grid Reference: SX 960759 to 981782 Area: 8.5 (ha) 21.1 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 192 1:10,000: SX 97 NE

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1974 Date of Last Revision: 1976

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1986 Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

Part in County Structure Plan Nature Conservation Zone, part in Area of Great Landscape Value. Boundary amended by extension and deletion. The northern section of this site, Langstone Rock, was previously part of the Exe Estuary SSSI.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

Dawlish Cliffs shows one of the finest continuous exposures of interbedded Aeolian sands (Dawlish Sands) and water-laid, breccia-filled, fluvial channels of Permian age in the country. At the northern end of the section, Langstone Rock is the type section of the Langstone Breccias, a coarser sedimentary development within the main body of the Dawlish Sands.

The coastal cliff section at Coryton's Cove shows a major aeolian sandstone unit of Permian age some twenty metres thick. The junction of the underlying Coryton and Teignmouth fluvial breccias is also seen. The Teignmouth breccias include flat-bedded and normally graded deposits produced by sheet floods and also matrix-supported debris flows. They form a coarse and very thick basal unit of the local Permian succession.