

COUNTY: AVON

SITE NAME: CLEVEDON SHORE

DISTRICT: WOODSPRING

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

Local Planning Authority: AVON COUNTY COUNCIL, Woodspring District Council

National Grid Reference: ST 402719 Area: 0.38 (ha.) 0.94 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 172 1:10,000: ST 47 SW

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1991 Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

A new site, listed in the Geological Conservation Review as of national importance. This site overlaps with the Severn Estuary SSSI.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

A mineralised fault, trending east-west adjacent to the pier, forms a small cliff feature in Dolomitic Conglomerate bounding the north side of Clevedon Beach.

The mineralization of the Dolomitic Conglomerate is patchy but widespread over several metres and consists of cream to pink baryte together with sulphides. The sulphides are best seen in large boulders on the beach derived from the mineralized fault. Small rounded baryte pebbles enclosing fresh sulphides can also be found.

A detailed paragenetic sequence of ore minerals has been established – haematite, chalcopyrite, tennantite, galena, tetrahedrite, bornite, pyrite, marcasite, enargite and sphalerite. Secondary alteration of this assemblage has produced idaite, covellite, other copper sulphides, native copper, arsenic and silver. The non-opaque secondary minerals are varied and include beaudantite, anglesite, phosgenite and brochantite.

Several of the minerals found here are rare, in particular the beaudantite. The presence of copper and arsenic is unusual for the Mendip-Avon district and further study is warranted.