

COUNTY: DEVON

SITE NAME: BARRICANE BEACH

DISTRICT: NORTH DEVON

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, North Devon District Council

National Grid Reference: SS 453443                      Area: 8.2 (ha.) 20.2 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:500,000: 180                      1:10,000: SS 44 SE

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

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1989                      Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

A new site. Listed as being of national importance in the Geological Conservation Review.

In North Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Part owned by the National Trust.

Description:

The Upper Devonian (Frasnian-Fammenian) Morte Slates exposed here were deposited in a shallow marine environment and are richly fossiliferous. This is the best fossil locality in the Morte Slates. It is of historic interest because it had formerly been proposed that the Devonian succession in North Devon had been repeated by faulting and that the Morte Slates were identical with the Lower Devonian Lynton Beds. This question was only resolved after fossil collections from Barricane Beach had been described, conclusively demonstrating that the Morte Slates are Upper Devonian and in sequence.