COUNTY: LANCASHIRE **SITE NAME: LYTHAM COASTAL CHANGES**

DISTRICT: Fylde

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

Local Planning Authority: Fylde Borough Council

National Grid Reference: SD 333275
SD 339295
SD 353274
SD 381185

Area: 24.06 hectares

Ordnance Survey Sheet: 1:50,000: 102 **1:10,000:** SD 32 NW, NE

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 29 July 1999

Other Information: New Site
A Geological Conservation Review (GCR) Site

Description and Reasons for Notification:

Lytham Coastal Changes consists of four separate locations within the town of Lytham St Anne's. The geological interest is preserved in sediments beneath the top soil and sand dunes of the area, and provides a record of sea-level changes which occurred during the Holocene.

Lytham St Anne's is the type locality for the transgressive and regressive overlap sequence of coastal changes in north west England during the Holocene. It demonstrates the pattern of relative sea-level changes for the area and also provides a baseline for wider correlation of sea-level variations in Britain. Together, a group of four sites at Fairhaven Dunes, Main Drain and Lytham Dock, Witch Wood and Government Offices provide the basic stratigraphic record of coastline changes, represented by alternating organic and inorganic deposits.

At Fairhaven Dunes marine sediments overlie a peat horizon and provide evidence for coastline change at about 8390 years BP. At Lytham Dock to Eastham Bridge five separate coastline changes are recorded between about 7605 years BP and 5775 years BP. At Witch Wood four changes are recorded between 4690 years BP and 1375 years BP. At Government Offices coastline changes are recorded over a timespan between about 8575 and 4895 years BP.