

COUNTY: SUFFOLK      SITE NAME: WALDRINGFIELD PIT

DISTRICT: SUFFOLK COASTAL

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

Local Planning Authority: SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL, Suffolk Coastal District Council

National Grid Reference: TM 260449      Area: 0.069 (ha.) 0.170 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 169      1:10,000: TM 24 SE

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

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

Other Information:

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

Description and Reasons for Notification:

Waldringfield Pit is a Quaternary geological locality important for a sequence of Middle Pleistocene deposits. The sequence comprises, from the base upward Red Crag; Waldringfield Gravels; the Valley Farm temperate palaeosol; the Barham periglacial palaeosol; and coversands. The top 1–2m of the deposits is deformed by periglacial involutions. Waldringfield Pit is the type site for the Waldringfield Gravels, the lowest unit of the Kesgrave Sands and Gravels, which form a series of Middle Pleistocene terraces in Suffolk. The exposure of the Valley Farm palaeosol is significant because it is younger and less complex than on the higher terraces further north although it may have elements within which are attributable to post-Cromerian temperate pedogenesis. The pattern of involutions is also of particular interest as a later set of features (of Wolstonian or Devensian age) may be superimposed on an older Anglian Set.