COUNTY: Norfolk SITE NAME: HUNSTANTON CLIFFS

DISTRICT: West Norfolk

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

Local Planning Authority: West Norfolk District Council

National Grid Reference: TF 672413, TF 679424 Area: 4.5 (ha) 11.1 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 132 1:10,000: TF 64 SE

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1959 Date of Last Revision: –

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1984 Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:
The scientific interest of this site lies principally in the cliff face, which erosion causes to retreat.

Reasons for Notification:
A classic and much-quoted locality for the Red Chalk and the underlying Carstone which contains an exceptionally rich Albian ammonite fauna. This is an important locality for the study of the sedimentology of these normally poorly exposed formations, in the area where the Carstone is thickly developed. The site also provides the best exposure of the (Upper Cretaceous) Ferriby Chalk Formation in Norfolk. The Cenomanian Chalk includes a regionally important marker horizon, the Paradoxica Band, and a calcarenite ("coarse grained") bed near the top of the section resembling the Totternhoe Stone of the Chilterns.

A key site showing a condensed Lower–Upper Cretaceous (Albian–Cenomanian) sequence important for both research and field education.

Additional biological interest is provided by a breeding colony of Fulmars on the cliff face. This is the largest colony on the east coast of England, south of Flamborough Head.