

COUNTY: CLEVELAND

SITE NAME: REDCAR ROCKS

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

Local Planning Authority: LANGBAURGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

National Grid Reference: NZ 605253–NZ 620253      Area: 31.1 (ha.) 76.8 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheets 1:50,000: 94      1:10,000: NZ 62 NW

First Notified: 1984

Other Information:

This is a new site identified as of national importance in the Geological Conservation Review.

Description:

Redcar Rocks represent the finest exposures of rock in the Lower Lias north of the Market Weighton Swell i.e. in the Yorkshire Basin. They display most of the stratigraphical interval missing from classic sections along the Yorkshire coast and are composed of calcareous shales containing characteristic fossil ammonites such as *Alsatites liasicus* and *Arnioceras semicostatum*. These span both Hettangian and Sinemurian Stages (i.e. *liasicus* and *semicostatum* zones) and are thus of key importance in relation to better known sections in Yorkshire. This rock sequence is atypical of the Lower Lias since, elsewhere in Britain, Blue Lias facies are normally found.

When exposed at low tide the rocks and sands provide an important feeding ground for several species of wading birds e.g. knot, turnstone, sanderling and purple sandpiper, especially during the winter months. These compliment other areas of rocky foreshore within South Gare and Coatham Sands SSSI, including Coatham Rocks and the 'German Charlies'.