

RICHMOND FARM SSSI

This disused **Coralline Crag** Pit, on private land, is easily viewed from the Gedgrave Road leading south out of Orford. The honey-coloured crag exposures have a Mediterranean feel, especially on a sunny summer afternoon.



The 7m exposures are of sandy limestone with a succession of spectacular ripple structures 2m or more in height. These indicate that a high energy marine environment (water depth about 25m), with southerly currents, existed nearly 4 million years ago when the Coralline Crag was deposited. These would have been challenging conditions for marine fauna, and there are very few fossils at this location. However, layers between the ripple sets have fossil bryozoans (the *corallines*, which give this rock its name) indicating calmer conditions may have prevailed for short periods of time.



The Coralline Crag is found only in Suffolk, its main outcrop being from Gedgrave to Aldeburgh, with small patches at Tattingstone, Ramsholt, Sutton, Boyton and (offshore) Sizewell Rocks. CM 2010