

DUNWICH HEATH CLIFF RIGS

The cliff at Dunwich Heath is accessed via the National Trust car park at TM476677. Take the footpath down to the beach and the wide sweep of Dunwich bay opens up to the north.



The Norwich Crag gravels here form imposing cliffs, reaching their greatest height where the layers of large flint cobbles locally known as the 'Westleton Beds' are present.



In the very gravelly beds of the northern half, the pebbles touch one another (clast supported matrix), the pebbles are well sorted, well rounded and almost entirely composed of flint. They form a wide (600m) shallow trough cut into the underlying Norwich Crag sands running at right angles to the present coastline. This is thought to represent a channel between barrier islands fringing the Norwich Crag sea – the last major marine incursion into Suffolk about 2 million years ago.

CM 2013