

GEODIVERSITY IN SUFFOLK COASTAL THE COAST

A wonderful coast for geological variety: Red Crag on London Clay at Bawdsey with other crags to the north; landslips in the estuaries, natural cliffs and the magnificent Orford Ness shingle spit. The fine tourist resorts of Felixstowe and Aldeburgh make excellent bases for exploring the coast.

Aldeburgh, Slaughden. Beginning of Orfordness shingle spit, between sea and river.

Bawdsey, Manor cliff. Artificial Pulhamite cliff on private land but may be viewed from the beach. www.bawdseymanor.co.uk

Cliff of Red Crag on London Clay SSSI – do not climb.

Bawdsey, East Lane. Larvikite (from Norway) and other rocks in sea defences. Do not climb on them.

Bawdsey, East Beach cliff. Red Crag on London Clay. Access is difficult – do not attempt at high tide.

Bawdsey Quay. Manor Estate wall – metamorphic rocks (ships ballast).

Dunwich Heath, cliffs RIGS. Fine exposures of Norwich Crag gravels.

www.nationaltrust.org.uk

Dunwich, cliff and beach RIGS. Norwich Crag sand and gravel in cliff.

Dunwich village. Historical evidence of coastal erosion, see leaflet *Dunwich: the geology of Suffolk's lost city* at www.geosuffolk.co.uk

Felixstowe, Landguard SSSI.

Sand and shingle spit.

Felixstowe, Spa Gardens.

Red Crag shows in places (do not climb)

Natural springs used in ornamental water gardens.



Hollesley, Shingle Street beach. Active feature beaches with fine shingle ridges at the mouth of the River Ore. View of end of Orfordness spit.

Nacton cliff (Nacton Shore). Fine London Clay exposures in the Orwell estuary. Low tide recommended.

Nacton, Bridge Wood (Orwell Country Park). Rotational landslips.

Orford Ness National Nature Reserve SSSI. 'Ness' and spit with shingle ridges.

Ramsholt Rocks SSSI. Red Crag and Coralline Crag fossils on foreshore at low tide. Do not climb or dig in cliffs.

Thorpeness. Shingle 'ness' with blocks of Coralline Crag washed up on to the beach.

Thorpeness cliff. Crag sand overlain by glacial till, often slumped.

GEODIVERSITY IN SUFFOLK COASTAL INLAND

Ninety per cent of the Coralline Crag – a rock type unique to Suffolk – occurs in Suffolk Coastal DC. ‘Boxstones’ (brown sandstone nodules), the debris of the Victorian ‘coprolite industry, may be seen in the walls of Sutton and Shottisham churches. Searles Valentine Wood, a local geologist hero lies commemorated at Melton Old Church.

Blythburgh Church. Fine flint flushwork.

Blythburgh, Toby’s Walks picnic site. Small exposures of gravel and a

GeoSuffolk Mammoth Trail panel. www.suffolk.gov.uk

Butley, Forest pit. Fossiliferous Red Crag on open access Forestry Commission land.

Chillesford, Church tower. Coralline Crag building stone.

Gedgrave, Richmond Farm Pit SSSI. Coralline Crag ‘rock bed’. On private land but may be viewed from the road.

Leiston, Long Shop Museum. Well and borehole with geological log.

www.longshopmuseum.co.uk

Melton, St Andrew’s Church. Kentish Ragstone with Caen and Bath Stone.

Melton, Old Church. S V Wood memorials.

Minsmere, RSPB pit. Crag sand exposure, easy to view from the visitor centre.

Newbourne Springs Nature Reserve. Red Crag springs, with exposure of shelly Red Crag at the Great Pit. www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org

Orford, Castle. Built from cementstone, limestone and some Coralline Crag.

Good views of Orfordness from the top and small Coralline Crag exposure in grounds. www.orfordmuseum.org.uk

Orford. Dunwich Underwater Exploration Exhibition.

Otley Gull – incised river valley on private land, may be viewed from footpath.

Shottisham Church. ‘Boxstones’ in walls.

Sutton, All Saints’ Church. ‘Boxstones’ in walls.

Sutton, Rockhall Wood Pit SSSI. Coralline Crag on private ground but may be viewed from footpath. GeoSuffolk information panel.

Waldringfield Church. Stained glass window paid for by ‘coprolite money’.

Wantisden, Church tower. Coralline Crag as a building stone.

Westleton Common.
Small exposures of
Westleton Gravels



Westleton Heath. Fine exposure of Westleton Gravels.

For information on geological SSSIs, see www.sssi.naturalengland.org.uk

Also leaflets *GeoSuffolk goes to Church in Suffolk Coastal and Deben Estuary* on www.geosuffolk.co.uk