

County: Essex **Site Name:** Clacton Cliffs & Foreshore

District: Tendring

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

Local Planning Authority: Tendring District Council

National Grid Reference: TM 146128 **Area:** 26.1 (ha) 64.49 (ac)
156134
173143

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1: 50 000: 168 **1: 10 000:** TM 11 SW, TM 11 SE
169

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): - **Date of Last Revision:** -

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1986 **Date of Last Revision:** -

Other Information:

A new site.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

Foreshore and cliff exposures and excavations in the Clacton district have provided opportunities for the study of one of the most important Pleistocene interglacial deposits in Britain. The celebrated Clacton channel deposits are a sequence of freshwater and estuarine sediments occupying a channel cut into an earlier gravel accumulation and the underlying Tertiary London Clay. They have yielded abundant molluscan and mammalian fossil remains, fossil plants and pollen, all of which indicate a Hoxnian interglacial age. The deposits also contain the type site of the internationally significant Clactonian Industry which, based on a crude working technique, is believed to be stratigraphically earlier than the Acheulian culture. The relationship between the Clacton Channel deposits and the other Pleistocene sediments of the area is poorly understood. There is need for further study of this critical site, which provides important comparisons, in a British context, with Hoxne and Swanscombe.