

CITATION

MACHRIHANISH DUNES
SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST
Argyll and Bute

Site code: 1120

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: NR 653238

OS 1:50,000 SHEET NO: Landranger Series 68
1:25,000 SHEET NO: Explorer Series 356

AREA: 293.35 hectares

NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES

Biological: Coastlands: Sand dunes

DESCRIPTION

Machrihanish Dunes Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) is a large sand dune system on the south-western coast of the Kintyre peninsula, approximately 7 km west of Campbeltown. It is the largest sand dune system in mainland Argyll. The dune system is fairly stable, with accretion at the seaward face in some years and erosion in others.

The dune system continues for approximately 5 km along the coast, between Westport in the north and Machrihanish in the south, and extends to 0.5 – 1 km inland. It holds a variety of different dune habitats, ranging from exposed strandline and fore dune vegetation to fixed dune grassland and dune slacks. This variety of habitats supports a diverse flora. Machrihanish Dunes is the only site in Kintyre for pyramidal orchid *Anacamptis pyramidalis*.

NOTIFICATION HISTORY

First notified under the 1949 Act: 1971 and 1975
Re-notified under the 1981 Act: 28 February 1986
Notification reviewed under the 2004 Act: 25 March 2011

REMARKS

Measured area of site corrected (from 299 ha)