

CITATION

MILTON NESS
SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST
Aberdeenshire

Site code: 1162

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: NO769649

OS 1: 50 000 SHEET NO: Landranger Series 45
1: 25 000 SHEET NO: Explorer Series 382

AREA: 25.51 hectares

NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES

Geological : Stratigraphy : Non-marine Devonian
: Quaternary geology and geomorphology : Quaternary of Scotland

DESCRIPTION

Milton Ness is located on the east coast of Scotland, about 10 km north of Montrose.

Non-marine Devonian

At Milton Ness, rock of the Upper Devonian to earliest Lower Carboniferous age (approximately 375-345 million years old) 'Kinnesswood Formation' is exposed. The rock is formed from river channel deposits laid down by a migrating river system on an alluvial plain. The site provides one of the best examples in Scotland of mature carbonate soil (calcrete) observed in the rock record from this period or any earlier Devonian (416-359 million years ago) period. It is also one of the very few examples of this age in Britain where soil development to a stage of laminated hardpan is recorded. Rhizoliths (roots encased in mineral matter) are exposed in the site and are some of the finest examples seen in any rocks of Palaeozoic age (542-251 million years old).

Quaternary of Scotland

The site demonstrates important features of Late Devensian and Holocene changes in relative sea-level in eastern Scotland. It provides a rare combination of both geomorphological and detailed sedimentary evidence. An intertidal rock platform, of uncertain age but at least in part pre-dating the last glaciation, is succeeded landward by a raised beach of Holocene age and two higher beaches of Late Devensian age. The structure and composition of the beaches are well revealed in section on the south side of the headland.

The assemblage of features at Milton Ness represents several important facets of the coastal evolution of eastern Scotland.

NOTIFICATION HISTORY

First notified under the 1981 Act: 15 March 1990.
Notification reviewed under the 2004 Act: 18 May 2011 and
24 February 2017 (citation only).

REMARKS

Measured area of site corrected (from 25.4 ha).

This site is adjacent to St Cyrus and Kinnaber Links SSSI.