

## CITATION

### MOSS OF CRUDEN SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST Aberdeenshire

Site code: 1197

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE : NK027402  
OS 1: 50 000 SHEET NO : Landranger Series 30  
1: 25 000 SHEET NO : Explorer Series 427  
AREA : 85.7 hectares

## NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES

Geological : Quaternary geology and geomorphology : Quaternary of Scotland

## DESCRIPTION

The Moss of Cruden is located 11 km south-west of Peterhead.

The site is the 'type locality' for a series of flint gravels (the Buchan Ridge Gravel Member) that, together with a series of quartzite gravels (the Windy Hills Gravel Member), form a unique set of deposits, the Buchan Gravels Formation, often known as the 'Pliocene' gravels of Buchan. The age and origin of these deposits have long been a source of scientific study and debate. Current interpretations suggest that the Moss of Cruden gravels are either *in situ* Neogene beach deposits (possibly later fluviially reworked) or they were transported by rivers or glacial meltwaters during the Neogene or Early-Quaternary. Following deposition, the gravels were modified by a range of processes reflecting later changes in environmental conditions, including chemical weathering, glaciation and periglacial processes.

Together with the quartzite gravels at Windy Hills, Moss of Cruden is of exceptional importance in providing a uniquely long record of some of the geomorphological processes and environmental conditions that have shaped the landscape of Scotland during and since the Neogene.

## NOTIFICATION HISTORY

First notified under the 1981 Act: 7 June 1984.  
Notification reviewed under the 2004 Act: 9 May 2011.

## REMARKS

Measured area corrected (from 85.12 ha).