



Scottish Natural Heritage

OLD CAMBUS QUARRY
Site of Special Scientific Interest

SITE MANAGEMENT STATEMENT

Site code: 1254

SNH
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Purpose



This is a public statement prepared by SNH for owners and occupiers of the SSSI. It outlines the reasons it is designated as an SSSI and provides guidance on how its special natural features should be conserved or enhanced. This Statement does not affect or form part of the statutory notification and does not remove the need to apply for consent for operations requiring consent.

We welcome your views on this statement.

Description of the site

Old Cambus Quarry is a disused slate quarry located less than 1 km from the Berwickshire Coast, around 4 km south east from Cockburnspath. The sedimentary rock was laid down beneath the Iapetus Ocean during the Llandovery, or lower part of the Silurian geological period, around 430 million years ago and consists of layers of ocean floor muds and muddy sandstones, or greywackes.

The shales and muddy sandstones of Old Cambus Quarry were formed from sediments laid down beneath the ancient Iapetus Ocean, which existed some 430 million years ago and separated Scotland from England. When Scotland and England "collided" together about 420 million years ago the Iapetus Ocean closed and almost vertical stacking of the ocean floor sediments resulted. The present exposures of rock at Old Cambus Quarry are the best eastern-most examples of this type of sedimentary Silurian rock.

Within the old quarried area, tilted layers of shale are well exposed. These layered shales form a sub-division of Southern Upland rocks known as the Llandovery Gala Group. Old Cambus Quarry, together with other Scottish Llandovery sites, illustrate the formation of the Southern Upland hills and also of the southern margin of the Midland Valley.

Excellent preserved graptolite faunas (ancient marine creatures) that are visible here allow correlation with other Silurian rocks in the Southern Uplands, and have established that these at Old Cambus were laid down during the upper part of the Llandovery or the Telychian period.

Diverse trace fossils left by other sea creatures on the once soft mud of the sea bed occur within the shales and give added interest to the stratigraphic importance of the site in terms of aiding understanding of the ancient sea bed environment.

The geological feature of the SSSI is currently in favourable condition as the monitoring targets were all met for the extent and visibility of the feature and access to the exposures.

This is a Geological Conservation Review Site.

Natural features of Old Cambus Quarry SSSI	Condition of feature (and date monitored)
Stratigraphy - Llandoverly	Favourable – maintained (August 2001)

Past and present management

Quarrying at the site ceased in the 1960s.

The SSSI is adjacent to an area of light industrial development and part of the quarry floor is currently used for parking and storage of materials. This current use does not impact upon or obscure the rock outcrops where the scientific interest of the site is located.

This site and nearby Siccar Point SSSI are regularly visited by educational groups and the general public.

Objectives for Management (and key factors influencing the condition of natural features)

We wish to work with the owner to protect the site and to maintain and where necessary enhance its features of special interest. SNH will carry out site survey, monitoring and research as appropriate to increase our knowledge and understanding of the site and its natural features and to monitor the effectiveness of the management.

- 1. To maintain the favourable condition of the geological exposure, ensuring that any rock exposures are not obscured by excessive growth of vegetation and that adequate access is maintained.**

Other factors affecting the natural features of the site

None known

Date last reviewed: 19 March 2010