

CITATION

OLD CAMBUS QUARRY
SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST
Scottish Borders

Site code: 1254

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: NT 806705

OS 1:50,000 SHEET NO: Landranger Series 67
1:25,000 SHEET NO: Explorer Series 346

AREA: 1.95 ha.

NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES

Geological: Stratigraphy: Llandovery

DESCRIPTION

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, and consists of layers of ocean floor muds and muddy sandstones, or greywackes. The present exposures of rock at Old Cambus Quarry are the best eastern-most examples of this type of sedimentary Silurian rock.

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.

NOTIFICATION HISTORY

First notified under the 1949 Act as a larger geomorphological SSSI, St Helen's Church Dry Channel: 1961 and 1971 (and denotified in 1986).

Re-notified under the 1981 Act: 11 May 1989 with a 67.86 ha decrease in area.

Notification reviewed under the 2004 Act: 19 March 2010

REMARKS

Measured area of site corrected (from 2.04 ha.)