

CITATION

**PEASE BAY COAST
SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST
Scottish Borders**

Site code: 1276

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: NT 781718

OS 1:50,000 SHEET NO: Landranger Series 67
1:25,000 SHEET NO: Explorer Series 346 & 351

AREA: 69.51 hectares

NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES

Geological: Stratigraphy: Lower Carboniferous (Dinantian – Namurian (part))
Palaeontology: Silurian – Devonian Chordata
Biological: Coastlands: Maritime cliff

DESCRIPTION

Pease Bay Coast Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) is located on the Berwickshire Coast, starting at the local authority boundary with East Lothian at Gutcher's Hole, near Dunglass Old Bridge, and continuing approximately 3 km south along the coast to Red Rock at Pease Bay. This site is of geological and botanical interest.

The rocks exposed in the cliff and foreshore within this site provide excellent exposures of a continuous succession of Upper Devonian and Lower Carboniferous strata that are of national and international importance. These are overlain by superficial drift deposits forming the upper, grassy slopes of the cliff line. The Devonian Upper Old Red Sandstone is conformably overlain by the Calciferous Sandstone Measures. The Carboniferous succession here includes the Scremerston Coal Group and the Cove marine beds. The strata also contain microscopic fossil spores which have been valuable in accurately dating the strata, thereby providing the means to link the Scottish Carboniferous sequences of the Midland Valley with the English sequences of the Northumbrian Trough. This site is also important as a number of early fossil fish have been collected here. These include the only known British examples of the genus *Remigolepis* together with *Holoptychius* and *Bothriolepis*. The specimens of *Remigolepis* are similar to material found in Greenland and are of considerable importance for international correlation.

The range of para-maritime cliff-slope grassland communities at this site is also of national importance, as the most representative example of this grassland habitat for this rock type in the Scottish Borders. There are small areas of calcareous grassland on some of the smaller rocky outcrops, with neutral grassland along the top and upper slopes of the cliffs.

The small area of saltmarsh at Reed Point is of local importance as the only area of saltmarsh in the Scottish Borders. These habitats support several insect and plant species of local importance.

NOTIFICATION HISTORY

First notified under the 1949 Act: 1961 and 1971

Re-notified under the 1981 Act: 17 January 1986 with a 12.2 ha increase in area

Notification reviewed under the 2004 Act: 24 September 2010

REMARKS

Measured area of site corrected (from 64.8 ha).