

CITATION

RANDOLPH'S LEAP SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST

Moray

Site code: 1330

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: NJ000497

OS 1: 50 000 SHEET NO: Landranger Series 27
1: 25 000 SHEET NO: Explorer Series 419, 422

AREA: 3.8 hectares

NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES

Geological : Geomorphology : Fluvial Geomorphology of Scotland

DESCRIPTION

Randolph's Leap is located on the River Findhorn, about 10 km south of Forres.

The site is an impressive meltwater slot gorge cut through schist bedrock, which locally confines the present day planform of the river. It provides excellent examples of bedrock spurs which are exposed at lower flows. The complex and highly irregular forms of these spurs owe their origin to the lines of weakness within the schist which run almost perpendicular to the direction of flow. There are also several potholes, exceptional in both their size and depth.

This site is also important since the maximum flood stages are marked for the catastrophic flood of 4 August 1829, when the river rose 16m above normal level. Flood deposits of exceptionally large boulders at the entrance to the gorge can also be attributed to the same event.

NOTIFICATION HISTORY

First notified under the under the 1981 Act: 5 November 1990.
Notification reviewed under the 2004 Act: 18 May 2011.

REMARKS

Measured area corrected (from 4.0 ha).

The site lies wholly within Lower Findhorn Woods SSSI.

Lower Findhorn Woods SSSI is designated as Lower Findhorn Woods Special Area of Conservation (SAC), for the following European habitat listed below.

Mixed woodland on base-rich soils associated with rocky slopes