

## CITATION

### ROSEHEARTY TO FRASERBURGH COAST SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST

Aberdeenshire

Site code: 1375

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: NJ918667 to NJ999675

OS 1: 50 000 SHEET NO: Landranger Series 30  
1: 25 000 SHEET NO: Explorer Series 427

AREA: 135.8 hectares

## NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES

Geological : Structural and : Dalradian  
metamorphic geology  
Biological : Birds : Curlew *Numenius arquata*,  
non-breeding  
: Eider *Somateria mollissima*,  
non-breeding  
: Purple sandpiper *Calidris maritima*,  
non-breeding  
: Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*,  
non-breeding

## DESCRIPTION

The site comprises a 10 km section of the north Aberdeenshire coastline, between Fraserburgh and Rosehearty.

### Geological

This site is of the highest stratigraphical, structural and petrological interest. It contains rocks exhibiting the classic "Buchan type" of regional metamorphism displaying small-scale sedimentary and tectonic structures which enable the elucidation of the major structure of the area.

This site contains the best localities in the Buchan area displaying the Kinnairds Head "Group" and the Rosehearty "Group" which are correlated respectively in the Lower Whitehills "Group" (Tayvallich Subgroup, Argyll Dalradian) and the Boyndie Bay "Group" (Lower Southern Highland Group) of the Banffshire Dalradian. Structurally these rocks lie in the western limb of a late open fold, of the Buchan anticline. There are three sections to the site.

### Bay of Lochielair

In this section, mainly pebbly beds of the Rosehearty "Group" are exposed, which are in the inverted limb of an overturned anticline, a fact indicated by graded bedding and cleavage-bedding relationships.

## Sandhaven to Pittulie

Here these are excellent exposures of porphyroblastic andalusite schists, and of graded pebbly beds of the Roseheartly "Group" immediately west of Sandhaven harbour. These are folds overturned to the west with well developed bedding-cleavage relationships.

## Kinnairds Head

This section exposes the Kinnairds Head Group (Tayvallich subgroup) of "right-way-up" (i.e. showing sedimentary structures which show that they are not inverted) pelitic to quartzitic schists with graded bedding and prominent calcareous bands which again show folds overturned to the west.

## **Biological**

This open and exposed coastline is unusual in containing fairly extensive areas of intertidal mud and sand flats interspersed with low rocky outcrops and coastal lagoons backed by a narrow fringe of sand dune and saltmarsh.

The site is important for the numbers of passage and wintering seaduck and waders which it supports. It is of national importance for turnstone and purple sandpiper, regularly holding over 500 and 250 individuals respectively. Nationally significant concentrations of eider and curlew also occur, and a wide variety of other waders and wildfowl.

## **NOTIFICATION HISTORY**

Originally notified under the 1949 Act in 1971 as Quarryhead to Fraserburgh SSSI.

Re-notified under the 1981 Act on 31 March 1989 with a 97 ha decrease in area, the Quarryhead coastal section having been deleted.

Notification reviewed under the 2004 Act: 26 May 2011.

## **REMARKS**

Measured area corrected (from 138.8 ha).