

CITATION

SCAAT CRAIG
SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST
Moray

Site code: 1409

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: NJ237568

OS 1: 50 000 SHEET NO: Landranger Series 28
1: 25 000 SHEET NO: Explorer Series 423

AREA: 1.79 hectares

NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES

Geological : Palaeontology : Silurian-Devonian Chordata

DESCRIPTION

Scaat Craig, located about 6km south of Elgin, is an isolated exposure of Frasnian age (late Devonian) 'Upper Old Red Sandstone' which has yielded a unique fish fauna. It has given its name to the Scaat Craig Beds, which have been correlated to late Frasnian equivalents in the Baltic. Historically important as one of the very first fish beds to be discovered in the Moray Firth area, it has yielded a rich and unusual fish fauna of well preserved bone fragments, teeth and scales. It is the type locality for three species, which are unique to the site, including *Cosmacanthus malcolmsoni*, a placoderm.

The occurrence of tetrapod limb bones, the first material evidence in Britain of such advanced vertebrates in the Devonian, adds to the site's significance and conservation value.

NOTIFICATION HISTORY

First notified under the 1949 Act: 1965.

Re-notified under the 1981 Act: 29 April 1985.

Notification reviewed under the 2004 Act: 18 May 2011.