

CITATION

**SOUND OF MULL CLIFFS
SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST**
Argyll and Bute

Site code: 1448

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: NM 535517

OS 1:50,000 SHEET NO: Landranger Series 47
1:25,000 SHEET NO: Explorer Series 374

AREA: 33.13 hectares

NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES

Biological : Woodland: Upland mixed ash woodland

DESCRIPTION

The Sound of Mull Cliffs Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) comprises steep land rising from the western shore of the Sound of Mull, approximately 3.5 km south of Tobermory. The site, designated for its woodland features, contains a good example of hanging woods on Tertiary basalt cliffs and screes, an uncommon habitat type in Argyll.

The woodland consists of ash, wych elm, hazel and goat willow with tall herb plant communities characteristic of base-rich soils. Oceanic species of ferns, mosses, liverworts and lichens are also much in evidence. Nearer the top of the cliffs birch, rowan, eared willow and carr occur on more acid soil conditions.

The site contains other non-notified habitats including a small area of wet dwarf-shrub heathland above the cliffs and dry heath and maritime grassland on the open scree slopes, with maritime herbs nearer the shore. The site is also recognised (but not notified) for its bird community which includes breeding raptors.

NOTIFICATION HISTORY

First notified under the 1949 Act: 1974

Re-notified under the 1981 Act: 30 June 1986 with an 8.9 ha decrease in area

Notification reviewed under the 2004 Act: 03 February 2010

REMARKS

Measured area of site corrected (from 38.9 ha)