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## **Purpose**

This is a public statement prepared by SNH for owners and occupiers of the SSSI. It outlines the reasons it is designated as an SSSI and provides guidance on how its special natural features should be conserved or enhanced. This Statement does not affect or form part of the statutory notification and does not remove the need to apply for consent for operations requiring consent.

We welcome your views on this statement.

[This statement is available in Gaelic on request.]

## **Description of the site**

South Shian and Balure SSSI comprises two stretches of shoreline with outcrops and low cliffs in western Benderloch, 13km north of Oban.

The deposits at South Shian and Balure of Shian provide excellent evidence for a separate ice advance (named the Loch Lomond Re-advance) at the end of the last glacial period, after the main ice sheet in Scotland had receded. These deposits include shelly marine clays overlain by glacial sediments. The shelly fauna found within the clay deposits provides useful information, both on the age of these deposits and on the environmental conditions that prevailed when they were laid down. Some of the clays contain a cold water fauna typically found within water in front of glaciers. The dates of these deposits can thus be used to identify the age of the Loch Lomond Re-advance. Typically the clays have been deformed by the glacier advancing over the top of them, however those at Balure of Shian have only undergone mild deformation, suggesting that they were close to the maximum position of the glacier.

The site is a key area for studies of late-glacial environments and chronology.

Natural features of South Shian and Balure SSSI
<b>Name of natural feature</b>
Quaternary of Scotland

### **Current condition of the natural features**

#### Quaternary of Scotland (results of monitoring in 15/12/00)

All targets were met and negative impacts are not considered to be affecting the crucial parts of the site, the site is considered to be in a **favourable** condition.

### **Past and present management**

The geomorphological interest of the Balure of Shian section has not been affected by any past land use.

The Balure of Shian section of the site consists of shingle beach and low backing cliffs and does not appear to be managed in any way. The South Shian section consists of a similar section of land but is more heavily managed due to the presence of houses and a fish farm close to the shore. The fish farm has oyster trestles offshore close to South Shian pier, with associated movement of vehicles across the foreshore and material stored at the back of the beach. However, this activity affects a restricted area of the SSSI and does not appear to be damaging to the important exposures.

### **Objectives for Management** (and key factors influencing the condition of natural features)

We wish to work with the owner to protect the site and to maintain and where necessary enhance its features of special interest. SNH aims to carry out site survey, monitoring and research as appropriate to increase our knowledge and understanding of the site and its natural feature.

### **To maintain the condition and extent of the Quaternary Of Scotland feature.**

(1a) Maintain exposures at both sections of the site in their present condition in order to permit access for research and education.

Date last reviewed: 9 April 2008