

**CITATION****SOUTH THREAVE  
SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST  
South Ayrshire**

Site code: 1457

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: NS 251038

OS 1:50,000 SHEET NO: Landranger Series 76  
1:25,000 SHEET NO: Explorer Series 326

AREA: 1.41 hectares

**NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES****Geological: Stratigraphy: Caradoc-Ashgill****DESCRIPTION**

South Threave, lying 3km north west of Dailly, exposes some of the youngest Ordovician rocks of the Girvan area. They date from around 435 million years ago and include the world-famous Lady Burn Starfish Beds of the Ashgill Drummuck Group, which contain a well preserved fossil fauna of unrivalled diversity. The fossil fauna of the Ladyburn Starfish Beds, known only from this site, represents virtually all the main groups of late Ordovician marine animals and is of international palaeontological and stratigraphical interest.

South Threave is the type-locality (location of first discovery) for several cystoid, asteroid and echinoid species, and has also yielded holothurians. The well-preserved echinoderm material has been of particular interest in the study of the early representatives of this important extant phylum. The site is the most important Ordovician crinoid locality in Britain – a third of known species being solely from this locality. In addition to echinoderms, the shelly fauna includes brachiopods, and trilobites.

The strata formed as a result of catastrophic movements of the sediments and organisms into deeper water and thus represents a series of instant 'census' events at a time of major global faunal change.

**NOTIFICATION HISTORY**

First notified under the 1949 Act: 1972

Re-notified under the 1981 Act: 28 November 1986 with a 7.58ha decrease in area

Notification reviewed under the 2004 Act: 13 April 2010

**REMARKS**

Measured area of site corrected from 1.40 hectares