

## CITATION

### SPYNIE QUARRY SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST

Moray

Site code: 1464

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: NJ223655

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

AREA: 6.14 hectares

## NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES

Geological : Palaeontology : Permian-Triassic Reptilia

## DESCRIPTION

Spynie Quarry, located 2 km to the north-east of Elgin, is an important site for late Triassic reptiles.

During the late Triassic, around 200 million years ago, a variety of early species of reptiles existed and the fossilised remains of these animals are preserved in the red sandstones of the Elgin area. Spynie Quarry is rivalled only by the historic Lossiemouth East site in the range of fossil reptiles it has yielded. Type material of two species have been collected here: the small procolophonid *Leptopleuron* and the carnivorous thecodontian *Ornithosuchus*. Relatively recently two excellent skulls of the rhynchosaur *Hyperodapedon* were collected and these have provided much new information on its anatomy and ecology. Spynie Quarry is probably the best site for future finds of the late Triassic Elgin reptiles.

## NOTIFICATION HISTORY

First notified under the 1949 Act: 1965.

Re-notified under the 1981 Act: 28 July 1983.

Notification reviewed under the 2004 Act: 28 September 2011.

## REMARKS

Measured area corrected (from 6.8 ha).