



**Scottish Natural Heritage**

All of nature for all of Scotland

**TOMNADASHAN MINE**  
**Site of Special Scientific Interest**

**SITE MANAGEMENT STATEMENT**

Site code: 1543

Battleby,  
Redgorton,  
Perth  
PH1 3EW

Tel: 01738 444177

Email:  
Tayside\_clackmannanshire  
@snh.gov.uk

## 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.

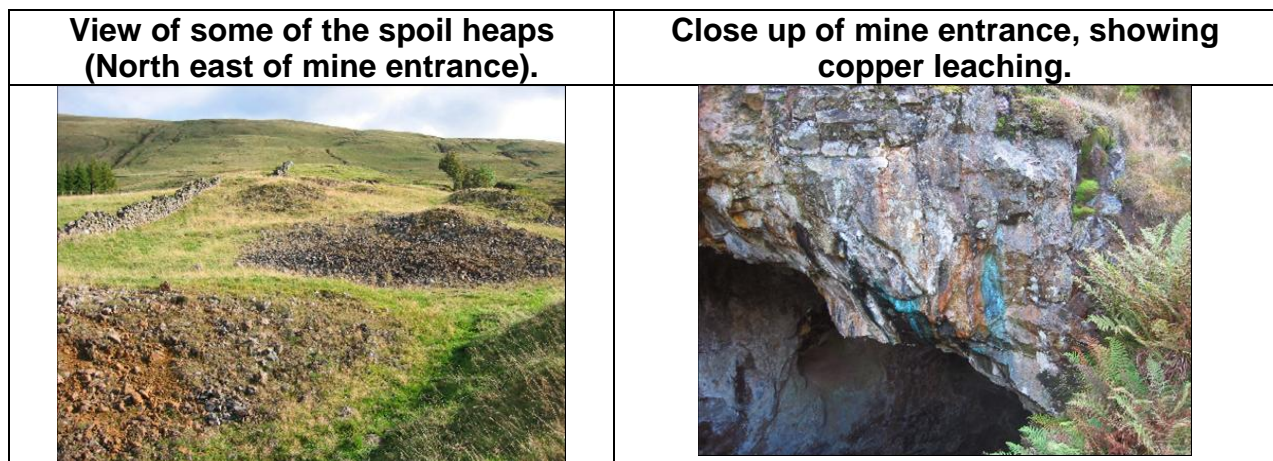
## Description of the site

Tomnadashan Mine is located on the south side of Loch Tay, immediately south of the road beside the loch, 2km south-west of Ardtalnaig. The site consists of an old mine and its associated spoil heaps, and contains an interesting range of minerals and lichens. The mining that took place (over 100 years ago) was mainly for copper ore. The mine provides the best example of copper mineralisation associated with igneous rocks of Caledonian age in Scotland. The site also supports the best example of metalliferous lichen (lichens which grow on soils and rocks with a high content of metals) communities in Perth & Kinross district.

The mineralisation can still be seen to some extent within the mine workings, where pockets of sulphides can be seen on the cavern walls. The spoil heaps provide a further useful resource of ore samples. The mineralisation occurs along the contact between two intrusives, originally described as granite and lamprophyre, but more recently as lenses of granite and granodiorite in diorite (an igneous rock). The samples of mineralisation at the site include much of Scotland's resource of base and precious metals, and as such are extremely important. Tomnadashan Mine provides a well-exposed locality for study of mineralisation associated with igneous bodies of this age, and is likely to be the focus of future research. This site is therefore of national importance and should be maintained in a good, accessible condition.

The old workings and the spoil heaps are of regional importance for their lichen community including a number of species restricted to heavy metal deposits. These include most notably extensive stands of *Rhizocarpon furfurosus* which is abundantly fertile at this site, an unusual occurrence for this normally sterile species, together with nine further metalliferous lichen species. There are very few old metal mines in the

district and Tomnadashan Mine supports the best example of a metalliferous lichen community in the area. Because of the habitat rarity metalliferous plants are often locally rare; Tomnadashan supports five locally rare species of lichen.



### Current condition of the natural features

The lichen assemblage was classed as unfavourable when it was monitored in 2004 due to disturbance of some of the spoil heaps either by mineral collectors or by other means. The spoil heaps are the most important parts of the site for metalliferous lichens.

The geological interest of the site was in favourable condition in 2006.

A summary of the latest site monitoring information is given below:

<p><b>Natural features of Tomnadashan Mine SSSI</b></p>	<p><b>Feature condition (date monitored)</b></p>
<p>Mineralogy of Scotland</p>	<p>Favourable, maintained (October 2006)</p>
<p>Lichen assemblage</p>	<p>Unfavourable, no change (May 2004)</p>

### Past and present management

Much of the site is unimproved acid grassland and the area is currently grazed by livestock. The grazing and trampling levels are not adversely affecting the site interests; grazing is desirable to prevent scrub regeneration which would obscure the geological interest and shade out the lichen interest. The mine workings are at present easily accessible and the site is periodically visited by educational groups who might collect some of the minerals on the site.

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

1. Maintain grazing at current levels.
2. Ensure that the mineral interest is not damaged by over collecting by visitors.
3. Ensure that spoil heaps and their associated lichen communities are not damaged by mineral collection by visiting educational groups or by use of spoil as aggregate, eg for track repairs.

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, its natural features and the effectiveness of management.

**Other factors affecting the natural features of the site**

None known

**Date last reviewed: 20 January 2010**