

**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.]

Natural features of Achnasheen Terraces SSSI	Condition of feature (and date monitored)
Quaternary geology and geomorphology	Favourable, maintained (June 2002)

Description of the site

Achnasheen Terraces Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) to the south of Achnasheen provides one of the best Scottish examples of an assemblage of landforms (including classic examples of terraces formed by glacial meltwater) deposited in an ice dammed lake during the last glacial period (around 11,000 to 10,000 years ago). The lake was impounded by a series of glaciers which converged on Strath Bran from the west, south west and east. Former lake levels are clearly demonstrated by the series of faint lake shorelines along the side of the glen, with the impressive series of stepped terraces clearly indicating the pattern of lake drainage and deglaciation. Superb examples of mounds and ridges of glacially deposited material (known as moraines) clearly indicate the most easterly extent of the Strath Bran glacier.

The site was visited in June 2002 and was found to be in favourable condition.

Past and present management

The SSSI is situated at the junction of the main road and rail network links between Inverness, Kyle of Lochalsh and Gairloch. The new road extension to the west of the village has not impacted on the landforms directly although it has provided some temporarily fresh sections through the sediments. The site's owners manage the land as rough grazing pasture and for deer stalking.

Other land management activities within the SSSI include the maintenance of the Inverness-Kyle railway line and the A890 road.

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 features.

1. To maintain accessibility and the visibility of the landforms for the purpose of education and research.

Existing features within the site have been partly obscured by a forestry plantation. Further applications for afforestation and gravel quarrying will therefore be discouraged in order to prevent the loss of designated features and the links between them.

Saplings which have been planted within an area identified as a 'no planting zone' of the Scottish Forestry Grant Scheme (SFGS) on the eastern section of the SSSI should be removed before they mature and impact on the visibility of landforms and the site's 'favourable' condition.

Current levels of grazing contribute to maintaining the visibility of landforms.

2. To maintain the current condition of the landforms by:

Safeguarding against modifications to the land profile by erosion, excavations or deposition of materials or the establishment of tree or scrub cover.

Other factors affecting the natural features of the site.

At present there are not many visitors to the site. If visitors were to be encouraged in the future, impacts on integrity of the site would be monitored.

Date last reviewed: 30 July 2008