Scottish Natural Heritage
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BEN MORE ASSYNT
Site of Special Scientific Interest

SITE MANAGEMENT STATEMENT

Site code: 191

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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.

Natural features of Ben More Assynt SSSI	**Condition of feature** (and date monitored)	**Other relevant designations**
Moine (geology)	Favourable maintained (May 2002)	
Caledonian Igneous (geology)	Favourable maintained (May 2002)	
Karst (geology)	Favourable maintained (April 2007)	
Caves (geology)	Favourable maintained (August 2002)	
Quaternary of Scotland (sediments within caves)	New feature – not yet assessed.	
Pleistocene vertebrata (animal bones)	Favourable maintained (May 2002)	
Upland assemblage (upland habitats)	Favourable recovered (August 2007)	Some of the interests of Inchnadamph Special Area of Conservation (SAC) (listed in Annex 1) are components of this interest
Oligotrophic river/stream (low nutrient stream)	Favourable maintained (August 2003)	
Mesotrophic loch (loch with moderate level of nutrients)	Favourable maintained (July 2004)	
Vascular plant assemblage	Not yet assessed	

See Annex 1 for a list of natural features of overlapping Natura sites that are not features of Ben More Assynt SSSI.

Description of the site

Ben More Assynt Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) is located in northwest Sutherland, approximately 16km east of Lochinver. The site covers a wide range of habitats which range in altitude from 70m near Inchnadamph to 998m at the summit of Ben More Assynt. It lies at the western edge of the Assynt - Coigach National Scenic Area and is a key part of the North West Highlands Geopark.

The site has been designated for the nationally important geology and freshwater habitats. The site is of international importance for the upland habitats and forms part of the headwaters of the River Oykel which has internationally important populations of salmon and freshwater pearl mussel.

Ben More Assynt SSSI has an impressive concentration of nationally important geological interests. The Moine and Caledonian Igneous features are exposures of bedrock that are crucial to understanding the complex Caledonian mountain-building event which occurred in northwest Scotland 460-430 million years ago. The other geological interests are landforms, deposits of sediment and mammal bones from the Quaternary period (the last 2 million years).

Moine (geology)

Moine rocks originated around 1000 million years ago as sea-floor sediments but were then greatly altered by heat and pressure deep within the earth. Around 460-430 million years ago, the land that is now Scotland collided with Scandinavia and then England. The impact created the Caledonian mountain belt. During this collision huge sheets of Moine rock were driven up to 100km westwards along gently inclined fractures. Rock sequences that were originally side by side were stacked up on top of each other so that younger rocks ended up on top of older ones. The western limit of thrusting is called the Moine Thrust Belt. It can be traced from Loch Eriboll to the Isle of Skye. Millions of years of erosion have worn away most of the Caledonian mountains, so that superb exposures of rocks that were originally deep within the earth are now revealed on Ben More Assynt SSSI.

The western limit of the Moine Thrust Belt can be seen at Stronchrubie Cliff, just south of Inchnadamph. The lowest fracture in the Moine Thrust Belt, known as the Sole Thrust, is visible at the cliff foot. It cuts through younger Cambrian limestones, incorporating them into the Belt. Stronchrubie Cliff also has a fine exposure of a series of steeply inclined minor thrusts. These form a regularly arranged stack of rock ‘slices’ known as an ‘imbricate’ structure. There are exceptional exposures of the same rocks at the Traligill Burn where movement along some smaller thrusts was in different directions to the larger thrusts. Together, these two exposures show that the overall westward thrusting involved complex stacking of rocks at a local scale.

The high ground of Ben More, Conival and Na Tuadhan is internationally important for demonstrating thrust processes. The Ben More Thrust, which is in the middle of the Moine Thrust Belt, is clearly exposed on the southern ridge of Conival and on either side of Strath Oykel. A huge, spectacular pair of folds is visible in the quartzite cliffs of Na Tuadhan. This shows how the rocks buckled when forced upwards and over the Ben More Thrust. The folds and fractures in these rocks have been shown to pre-date movement along the Ben More Thrust. This sheds further light on the prolonged and complex history of the Moine Thrust Belt.

The Moine rocks were monitored in May 2002 and assessed as being in favourable condition. The visibility and accessibility of the key outcrops had been maintained.

Caledonian igneous (geology)

Igneous rocks form when molten magma rises through the Earth's crust, cools and solidifies. The igneous rocks in Ben More Assynt SSSI started to form 500 million years ago during the collision of continental plates that created the Caledonian mountain belt. Igneous rocks can be dated, so they help us to determine the sequence of events that formed the Moine Thrust Belt.

The slopes of Cnoc an Droighinn, just northeast of Inchnadamph, expose vertical sheets of igneous rock called dykes, and horizontal sheets called sills. The dykes and sills are mostly hornblende porphyrite, a fine-grained pink rock containing large crystals of the minerals hornblende and feldspar. The hornblende porphyrite sills and dykes have been cut by the Glencoul Thrust, showing that they formed shortly before the end of rock movement on the Glencoul Thrust. In contrast, dykes and sills made of grorudite (rock with large crystals of the mineral microcline) are only found in rocks above the Glencoul Thrust, showing that the grorudite was deposited long before the Glencoul Thrust occurred.

The floor of the Allt nan Uamh valley exposes a ~20m-thick sill of vogesite, a dark, fine-grained rock with large crystals of hornblende. This is a one of the thickest vogesite sills found in Assynt and is particularly valuable for learning about the formation of igneous rocks close to the Earth's surface.

The slopes of Luban Croma (a southern spur of Breabag) are important for the differing types of sills found here. These sills are made of hornblende porphyrite, vogesite and a rock that is only found here called 'Breabag porphyrite'. The sills all occur between the Sole Thrust and the Ben More Thrust. These sills are important in establishing the relative timing and extent of the Sole and Ben More movements.

Scattered exposures near Black Rock and Sail an Ruathair in the southeastern part of the SSSI show that there was large igneous intrusion in this area, known as the Loch Ailsh Intrusion. This cooled from a magma chamber a few kilometres below the Earth's surface 440 million years ago and covered 10km^2. The Loch Ailsh Intrusion consists largely of syenite, a coarse-grained rock like granite which is dominated by alkaline minerals. The Loch Ailsh Intrusion is the only rock of this type in Britain. Key exposures show how pre-existing Cambrian rocks were baked by the hot intrusion, and locally incorporated into it. Relationships between the syenites and the Ben More Thrust show that both the Loch Ailsh Intrusion and the thrusting were both involved in building the Caledonian mountains.

A small riverside outcrop below Black Rock in upper Glen Oykel contains a good example of a grorudite dyke. Such dykes are found only in rock sheets moved by the Ben More and Glencoul Thrusts, and this particular one cuts through the Loch Ailsh Intrusion rocks. This dyke therefore formed after the Loch Ailsh Intrusion, but before movement on the thrusts.

There is an excellent small outcrop of cemented, jumbled, angular blocks of Cambrian limestone further up Glen Oykel, below Carn a' Mhiodair. The circular form of this outcrop suggests it formed when gases rising up a volcanic vent explosively shattered the surrounding limestone. An adjoining sill of vogesite formed from magma that rose along the margin of the vent.

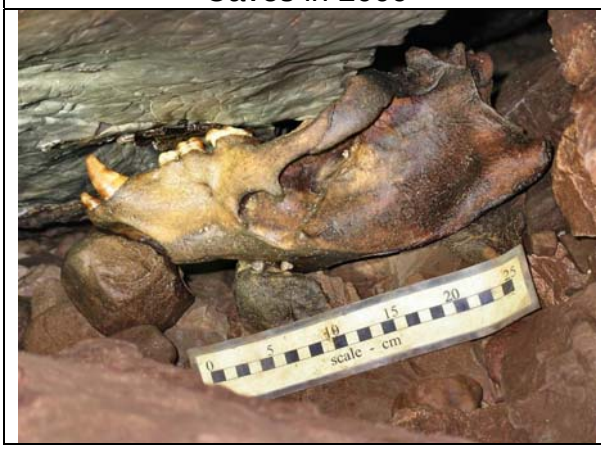
The Caledonian igneous rocks were monitored in May 2002 and assessed as being in favourable condition. The visibility and accessibility of the key outcrops had been maintained.

Karst (geology)

The area round the Traligill River, southeast of Inchnadamph, contains Scotland's finest karst landscape. Karst landscapes are produced when water erodes easily dissolved rock such as the Durness dolomite that is found here. Durness dolomite is a type of magnesium-rich limestone that was formed 480 million years ago during the Cambrian geological era. Karst landforms include dry valleys where rivers disappear into sink holes only to reappear further down the valley, limestone pavements (fissured rocky ground) and caves.

The karst terrain on this site developed under successive ice sheets during the last 2 million years. There are excellent examples of water exploiting weaknesses in the rock to form caves along fractures caused by earth movements in the Moine Thrust Belt, such as the spectacular cascade down an inclined thrust plane near the Uamh an Uisge cave entrance.

The karst geology was monitored in April 2007 and remained in favourable condition.

Brown bear skull excavated from Bone Caves in 2009	Intense small scale folding in Moine rocks. The outcrop shown is about 50cm across.
	

Caves (geology)

The Allt nan Uamh and Traligill cave systems are the most extensive in Scotland. They include both dry and flooded passages. Within the caves, valuable records of past conditions are provided by gravel and sand deposits, some of which are covered by stalagmites. Stalagmites form when dripping water containing dissolved minerals evaporates, leaving behind calcite formations.

Laboratory dating of the calcites indicates that the higher caves developed several hundred thousand years ago. Lowering of the valley floor by ice in three stages then allowed caves to develop at successively lower levels. Each time glaciers cut deeper into the valley floor, water was able to flow through deeper underground passages and previous passages were preserved 'high and dry'. In the Traligill system there is also evidence of a warm period interrupting the last phase of ice sheets.

The caves were monitored in August 2002 and assessed as being in favourable condition. The key features of the caves had been maintained and were accessible to competent cavers.

Quaternary of Scotland (sediments within caves)

The caves within the crag at Creag nan Uamh are nationally important for the environmental record in the cave sediments. The three caves, known as the 'Bone

Caves', are the truncated remains of higher-level passages in the Allt nan Uamh system. Their infill of layered silts, sands and gravels has been partly destroyed during past excavations. The remaining evidence indicates that some sediments were deposited when ice sheets were present, and some in intervening warmer times. Mammal bones within the sequence give opportunities to date these events. The sediments appear to record environmental conditions spanning at least the last 125,000 years, including an ice-free period during the last glaciation.

The sediments within caves have not yet been monitored.

Pleistocene vertebrata (animal bones)

Well-known assemblages of mammal and bird bones have been found within the layers of sediment in the Bone Caves and nearby Bear Cave. Species recorded include wolf, arctic fox, brown bear, northern lynx, polar bear, reindeer, badger, common scoter, long-tailed duck and puffin. Each layer of sediment and bone deposit indicates particular environmental conditions that existed in the last 45,000 years. This is the most diverse and best dated mammal record of this age in Scotland. Evidence that sub-arctic mammals were present soon after the last ice sheets melted, about 10,000 years ago is particularly significant. There are also indications that humans used one of the caves around this time, making it Scotland's oldest archaeological site.

The animal bones were monitored in May 2002 and assessed as being in favourable condition. The layers of sediment within which animal bones have previously been found were visible and were undisturbed apart from a minor excavation which may have been made by fox or badger.

Upland assemblage (upland habitats)

The 'upland assemblage' is composed of an impressive range of upland habitats. The higher parts of the site have one of the most extensive areas in the northern highlands of **Alpine moss heath** and associated vegetation. This is dominated by stiff-sedge and woolly fringe moss and has abundant cushion-forming plants such as sea thrift, moss campion and the nationally scarce mossy cyphel.

Three types of calcareous grassland community are found in areas where there are outcrops of limestone. **Dryas heath** is dominated by the nationally scarce mountain avens. This type of community is more often found in coastal areas but is found at higher altitude near Inchnadamph where it includes montane species such as alpine meadow-rue, moss campion, alpine bistort, alpine lady's mantle, yellow saxifrage and two nationally scarce species: rock sedge and hair sedge. The **subalpine calcareous grassland** community includes the third largest area of sheep's fescue-common bent-wild thyme grassland in Scotland. One distinctive sub-community contains montane species such as alpine bistort, alpine meadow-rue and moss campion. Other areas have grassland dominated by sheep's fescue, common bent and alpine lady's mantle. **Alpine calcareous grassland** is dominated by a mix of sheep's fescue, alpine lady's mantle and moss campion and is especially rich in nationally scarce montane species such as mossy cyphel, sibbaldia, alpine meadow-grass, cold eyebright and mountain pearlwort.


Mountain avens

The largest colony of the nationally scarce whortle-leaved willow in Britain forms **montane willow scrub** near Inchnadamph. Ben More Assynt has good examples of **tall herb ledges**, especially on Lewisian gneiss cliffs. Great wood rush, water avens and the uncommon holly fern can be found growing here.

Inchnadamph is the best place in Scotland for petrifying springs, where tufa forms in vegetation dominated by the moss and red fescue. Tufa is a type of limestone which is formed when minerals which had been dissolved in water turn back into rock. Together with the fountain apple moss-starry saxifrage springs, these form the **spring-head rill and flush** community. Another base-rich component of the assemblage, **alkaline fen**, is dominated by dioecious sedge and common butterwort or common yellow-sedge and yellow saxifrage.

This site has one of the few extensive examples of **limestone pavement** in Scotland. The relatively high altitude means that this has a diverse montane flora, including whortle-leaved willow, holly fern, mountain avens, yellow saxifrage and green spleenwort. Other unusual upland and northern species found in this habitat include melancholy thistle, stone bramble, globeflower and mountain melick.

The upland assemblage was monitored in August 2007. The area of each component of the upland assemblage had been maintained and appropriate plant species were recorded in all habitats. Some parts of the upper slopes of Ben More Assynt and Conival and parts of Garbh Choire showed effects of red deer trampling that were too high for these fragile habitats. Where vegetation is on a layer of unstable smaller stones and gravel on steeper slopes, deer trampling can quickly lead to erosion and sometimes direct loss of habitat. However these areas of damage were sufficiently localised for the upland assemblage to be assessed as having recovered to favourable condition.

Oligotrophic river/stream (low nutrient river)

The River Traligill is an impressive example of an oligotrophic river which means that it has water that is very clear and is low in nutrients. Such clear water is unusual in northwest Scotland because most rivers in this area flow through peat, which stains the water brown. In contrast, the River Traligill flows through rocky ground in its headwaters and then flows through an area of limestone, as well as running partly underground.

Water in the River Traligill flows over luxuriant mossy carpets which cover the banks and bed of the stream. These carpets of mosses and lichens can only survive in streams that have clear water, little movement of silt or stones and are not enriched by unnatural sources of nutrients. The lichens found here include V*errucaria aquatilis* and *V. praetermissa,* whilst the mosses include rusty feather-moss, greater water-moss, drab brook-moss, claw brook-moss and the moss river grimmia. Water blinks and the nationally scarce alpine rush also grow in the stream. Yellow mountain saxifrage, greater bird's-foot trefoil and common pearlwort, sneezewort, lesser spearwort and marsh hawk's-beard grow amongst the mosses on the banks of the stream.

The River Traligill was monitored in August 2003 and was assessed as being in favourable condition. Water quality was very good, with clear water and no signs of siltation or unnatural nutrient enrichment. A diverse range of aquatic mosses and flowering plants was recorded that are typical of upland clear-water rivers.

Mesotrophic loch (loch with moderate level of nutrients)

Loch Mhaolach-coire is small, shallow loch with a moderate level of nutrients and peat-stained water. This contrasts with most lochs in northwest Scotland, which have lower levels of nutrients because they are surrounded by acidic rocks that are worn away slowly by water. The water in Loch Mhaolach-coire is unusual because water flows into the loch across an area of Durness Limestone which is relatively high in nutrients and dissolves easily, leading to naturally nutrient-enriched water entering the loch. The

water in the loch is peat-stained because some parts of the catchment flow over ground that is thickly covered by peat.

Loch Mhaolach-coire has an interesting mix of plant species including some such as delicate stonewort that are normally found in nutrient-rich lochs. Here, these nutrient-demanding species grow alongside species such as shoreweed that are normally found in nutrient-poor lochs. The nationally rare long-stalked pondweed also grows here. The variety of plants also includes perfoliate pondweed, broadleaved pondweed, floating bur-reed and alternate-flowered water milfoil.

The loch was monitored in 2004 and was assessed as being in favourable condition. The natural shoreline and substrate of the loch and water quality had been maintained. The commonest species were delicate stonewort and shoreweed. The nationally rare long-stalked pondweed was rediscovered, the only previous record from this site having been in 1936.

Vascular plant assemblage

The varied habitats and soil types on the site allow an exceptional number and variety of nationally scarce and rare plants to grow here. Most of these specialise in growing in upland areas where, although conditions are often harsh, they have little competition from the more vigorous species that grow at lower altitudes. Four nationally rare species grow on this site: Arctic sandwort, the eyebright *Euphrasia ostenfeldii*, spring gentian and curved woodrush. In addition, 22 nationally scarce plants are found here. The complete list of rare and nationally scarce plants found within Ben More Assynt SSSI is given in Annex 2 below.

The vascular plants have not yet been monitored on this site.

Other interests

The site also includes part of the headwaters of the River Oykel where there are internationally important populations of Atlantic salmon and (downstream of the Ben More Assynt SSSI site boundary) freshwater pearl mussel. Salmon and freshwater pearl mussel are both species that can only survive in unpolluted water, so maintaining a clean supply of water into the River Oykel is essential to maintain their populations.

A variety of other habitats are found on the site including wet and dry sub-alpine dwarf-shrub heaths (including the Northern Atlantic Hepatic Mat community which is rich in liverworts), blanket bog, some rarer acid mires, alpine heath, snowbeds and russet sedge mire, which supports two nationally scarce species of rush - chestnut rush and two-flowered rush.

Past and present management

Most of Ben More Assynt SSSI is owned by three estates. A small area is owned by Forest Enterprise. The land is managed primarily for deer stalking. There is some grazing by sheep, but this has reduced since the 1980s when the limestone grasslands were grazed more heavily. More recent reduction in sheep numbers was funded through the Rural Stewardship Scheme in the early 2000s.

The site is within the West Sutherland Deer Management area, and red deer range across the SSSI and onto the neighbouring land. Grazing by deer (and sheep where applicable) is the principal factor that now affects the condition of the site. Between

2003 and 2009, the Inchnadamph area of Ben More Assynt SSSI and a buffer around this was subject to a Section 7 deer management agreement with the Deer Commission (Scotland). This resulted in a reduction in deer impacts on the habitats during the spring and summer.

Between 1959 and 1992, approximately 28ha of the Inchnadamph area was protected from sheep and deer grazing by erecting 8 fenced exclosures. This allowed regeneration of rare upland willow scrub and native woodland. It is intended that most of the fences will now be removed as grazing levels have now reduced. The oldest exclosure will be kept for continued research and demonstration purposes.

The Inchnadamph area has been promoted to visitors with good paths to the Bone Caves and the Traligill River area. The wider SSSI is popular with hill walkers, and both Ben More Assynt and Conival are 'Munros'. Some routes are now becoming eroded. In addition, the cave system and the geology attract many people, and the nearby rivers and lochs are popular with anglers. A Field Centre and hotel at Inchnadamph provide a base for walkers, geologists and anglers. The Assynt Mountain Rescue Team also have a rescue base there.

The high quality of the water at the Allt nan Uamh provided a site for a fish hatchery in the past, and the building is still there. The site has now received planning permission for a house. There is also planning permission for a further property to be built on an old field area between Inchnadamph and Glenbain Cottage. There is a small hydro-electric system on the River Oykel.

The caves on the site are used for recreational caving. Exploration of the caves continues, and new entrances have been excavated, mainly by the Grampian Speleological Group. This allows easier and safer access to sections of caves and animal skeletons. Some bones have been removed for safe keeping and to allow analysis and dating. Searches for further animal remains are being undertaken in consultation with SNH.

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

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

The EU Habitats and Birds Directives oblige Government to avoid, in SACs and SPAs, the deterioration of natural habitats and the habitats of species, as well as disturbance of the species for which the areas have been designated, where such disturbance could be significant in relation to the objectives of these Directives. The objectives below have been assessed against these requirements. All authorities proposing to carry out or permit to be carried out operations likely to have a significant effect on the European interests of this SSSI must assess those operations against the relevant Natura conservation objectives (which are listed on our website through the SNHi - SiteLink facility).

The list of Operations Requiring Consent, and the discussions on land management involved in the issuing of formal consents, are intended to minimise the threat of any damage to the natural features.

1. To maintain the condition, access to, and visibility of key geological features, including the caves

Most of the geological features can be maintained by continuing the existing management which ensures that key outcrops are not obscured. We intend to continue to work closely with the Grampian Speleological Group (GSG) over recreational use of the caves, so that relict features are undamaged and available for study. Through them, codes of practice by cavers can be monitored, and new discoveries recorded. Within the caves, it is important not to touch the stalagmites because the rock build up is formed by minerals solidifying out of the water onto the old surface and oils from peoples' skin can affect the growth or colour of the formation. In other places where impacts might occur, such as informal paths to new cave sites, GSG can help to avoid erosion of habitats by requesting members to take alternative routes.

2. To maintain the condition, extent and distribution of the upland plant communities and vascular plant assemblage

Grazing and trampling on the sensitive and slow-growing upland habitats need to be managed so that the recent recovery to favourable condition can be maintained. The most recent survey in 2007 found that large numbers of deer used the upper slopes of Ben More Assynt and Conival, and there was some disturbance to the ground in Garbh Choire. Mountain willow scrub and calcareous flushes had recovered from impacts caused by deer at the completion of the Section 7 agreement, but parts of the dry heath were still being affected by deer. Bracken was also encroaching on parts of the dry heath. In discussion with the landowner for this area, it is anticipated that management will be undertaken to reverse these trends. SNH will be undertaking on-going monitoring in the Inchnadamph area to ensure that the condition of the upland habitats continues to improve.

The exclosures that were set up on an experimental basis are now (with the exception of one) to be opened up to deer grazing. A low level of browsing will ensure that more vigorous species do not crowd out the more light-demanding plants, such as mountain willow or mountain avens.

3. To maintain the water levels and water quality of the River Traligill and Loch Mhaolach-coire

Management around the River Traligill and Loch Mhaolach-coire should avoid activities that would release sediment, excessive nutrients or chemicals into the water. Activities that might alter water levels of lochs should be avoided. This objective can readily be achieved by maintaining the present management of lochs that allows natural processes to continue with minimal intervention or disturbance.

4. To maintain water quality in the catchment of the River Oykel for the benefit of the Atlantic salmon and freshwater pearl mussel populations

Maintaining water levels and water quality is crucial to keep the River Oykel SAC suitable for freshwater pearl mussels and Atlantic salmon. Where possible, any increase in drainage, abstraction or other activities affecting the hydrology of the river catchment should be avoided. Agriculture, quarrying and forestry operations within the catchment should be carefully managed to prevent the input of sediment, chemicals or nutrients. The Forestry Commission's Forests and Water Guidelines should be carefully adhered to when carrying out any forestry operations within the River Oykel catchment.

Other factors affecting the natural features of the site

- **Climate change**: Many of the montane habitats and rare or scarce plants on this site are at risk from climate change. Ben More Assynt SSSI is already close to the most southern or lowest altitude limit of their range so if the climate were to become warmer these habitats and species might be lost from the site.

Date last reviewed: 31 March 2011

Annex 1. List of natural features of Natura sites that overlap Ben More Assynt SSSI

Features of overlapping Inchnadamph SAC that are not notified as SSSI features	Feature condition (date monitored)	Designation
Alpine and subalpine calcareous grasslands[1]	Favourable maintained (July 2008)	Inchnadamph SAC
Base-rich fens[1]	Unfavourable recovering (July 2008)	Inchnadamph SAC
Base-rich scree	Favourable maintained (December 2004)	Inchnadamph SAC
Dry heaths	Unfavourable no change (July 2008)	Inchnadamph SAC
Hard-water springs depositing lime[1]	Unfavourable recovering (July 2008)	Inchnadamph SAC
Limestone pavements[1]	Favourable recovered (October 2009)	Inchnadamph SAC
Mountain willow scrub[1]	Unfavourable recovering (July 2007)	Inchnadamph SAC
Plants in crevices on base-rich rocks	Favourable maintained (December 2004)	Inchnadamph SAC

[1] These SAC features are part of the Ben More Assynt SSSI 'upland assemblage' feature

Parts of Ben More Assynt SSSI (the River Oykel and Allt Sail an Ruathair in the south and Loch Bealach a' Mhadaidh in the north) overlap part of the River Oykel SAC which is designated for the following features:

Features of the overlapping River Oykel SAC that are not notified as natural features of Ben More Assynt SSSI	Designation
Atlantic salmon	River Oykel SAC
Freshwater pearl mussel[1]	River Oykel SAC

[1]This species is not found within the boundary of Ben More Assynt SSSI

Annex 2. List of the nationally scarce and rare flowering plant species found on Ben More Assynt SSSI

English name	Latin name	Scarce or rare species
Lady's mantle	*Alchemilla wichurae*	Scarce
Alpine bearberry	*Arctostaphylos alpinus*	Scarce
Arctic sandwort	*Arenaria norvegica*	Rare
Alpine lady-fern	*Athyrium distentifolium*	Scarce
Hair sedge	*Carex capillaris*	Scarce
Rock sedge	*Carex rupestris*	Scarce
Russet sedge	*Carex saxatilis*	Scarce
Arctic mouse-ear	*Cerastium arcticum*	Scarce
Rock whitlow grass	*Draba norvegica*	Scarce
Mountain avens	*Dryas octopetala*	Scarce
Dark-red helleborine	*Epipactis atrorubens*	Scarce
Variegated horsetail	*Equisetum variegatum*	Scarce
Eyebright	*Euphrasia ostenfeldii*	Rare
Cold eyebright	*Euprasia frigida*	Scarce
Spring gentian	*Gentiana verna*	Rare
Limestone fern	*Gymnocarpium robertianum*	Scarce
Curved woodrush	*Luzula arcuata*	Rare
Interrupted clubmoss	*Lycopodium annotinum*	Scarce
Mossy cyphel	*Minuartia sedoides*	Scarce
Alpine meadow grass	*Poa alpina*	Scarce
Alpine cinquefoil	*Potentilla crantzii*	Scarce
Mountain pearlwort	*Sagina saginoides*	Scarce
Myrtle-leaved willow	*Salix myrsinites*	Scarce
Alpine saxifrage	*Saxifraga nivalis*	Scarce
Sibbaldia	*Sibbaldia procumbens*	Scarce
Rock whitebeam	*Sorbus rupicola*	Scarce