

## CITATION

**BULLERS OF BUCHAN COAST**  
**SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST**  
Aberdeenshire

Site code: 271

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE : NK110380

OS 1: 50 000 SHEET NO : Landranger Series 30  
1: 25 000 SHEET NO : Explorer Series 421, 427

AREA : 104.06 ha

## NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES

Geological : Geomorphology : Coastal geomorphology of Scotland  
Biological : Coastlands : Maritime cliff  
: Birds : Seabird colony  
: Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*  
: Guillemot *Uria aalge*  
: Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

## DESCRIPTION

This site comprises the sea cliffs and coastal strip from Buchan Ness, near Peterhead, southwards to just beyond Slains Castle, near Cruden Bay, including the Bullers of Buchan. The cliffs, slopes and inshore stacks are of special geological and biological interest.

### Coastal geomorphology

Bullers of Buchan is an important site for rock coast geomorphology, demonstrating an impressive range of forms developed in a relatively uniform, massive granite. Rectilinear jointing patterns in the granite, together with dykes, provide basic control on the coastal forms. Several distinctive landforms occur within a relatively small area – a variety of geos, complex inlets, caves, arches, stacks, skerries and linear reefs – and a range of cliff types is present.

The site provides an excellent opportunity for detailed research into the evolution of a rocky coastline since the end of the last ice age 14,000 years ago.

### Maritime cliff habitat

The sea-cliffs and slopes support a wide range of maritime habitats including grassland, crevice and ledge communities with characteristic species such as thrift *Armeria maritima*, Scots lovage *Ligusticum scoticum* and roseroot *Sedum rosea*. The cliff top has some of the best examples of heath and brackish flushes on the coast of north-east Scotland.

## Birds

The sea-cliffs and inshore stacks support a colony of breeding seabirds which is of international importance. This assemblage includes nationally important populations of kittiwake *Rissa tridactylas* and guillemot *Uria aalges*. Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*, herring gull *Larus argentatus*, fulmar *Fulmaris glacialis*, razorbill *Alca torda*, and puffin *Fratercula arctica* are also present.

## NOTIFICATION HISTORY

First notified under the 1949 Act in 1972.

Re-notified under the 1981 Act on 17 September 1984 with a 54 ha decrease in area.

Notification reviewed under the 2004 Act: 31 March 2010.

## REMARKS

Measured area of site corrected (from 108.6 ha).

Bullers of Buchan SSSI is part of Buchan Ness to Collieston Special Area of Conservation (SAC) designated for the European habitat listed below and is also part of Buchan Ness to Collieston Special Protection Area (SPA) designated for the birds listed below:

Habitat:	Vegetated sea cliffs
Birds:	Breeding seabird assemblage
Birds:	Fulmar
	Kittiwake
	Guillemot
	Shag
	Herring gull