

**CITATION****AN CLEIREACH  
SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST**  
Highland (Skye and Lochalsh)

Site code: 56

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: NG 334442

OS 1:50,000 SHEET NO: Landranger Series 23  
1:25,000 SHEET NO: Explorer Series 410

AREA: 64.81 hectares

**NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES:****Geological : Igneous petrology : Tertiary igneous****DESCRIPTION:**

An Cleireach Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) is located in the hills between Dunvegan and Portree in the north of the Isle of Skye near Balmeanach. The site encompasses a Tertiary igneous intrusion, which is of significant petrogenetic importance in revealing the characteristics of the dyke-like bodies and sills containing gabbroic-anorthosite and gabbro which intrude the plateau lavas of north-west Skye.

An Cleireach SSSI contains an excellent example of a coarse gabbroic-anorthosite sheet. This provides textural evidence that the sheet became choked with early-formed plagioclase megacrysts which had crystallized from a low-alkali, high-calcium tholeiitic basalt magma. The geochemistry of the intrusion thus confirms the existence of a low-alkali, high-calcium tholeiitic magma towards the end of Palaeogene volcanism in northern Skye and furthers our understanding of the igneous activity of the area at that time.

**NOTIFICATION HISTORY:**

First notified under the 1981 Act: 18 September 1984  
Notification reviewed under the 2004 Act: 15 July 2010

**REMARKS:**

Measured area of site corrected (from 58.6 ha).