

CITATION**ARDERSIER GLACIAL DEPOSITS
SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST
HIGHLAND (Inverness)**

Site code: 71

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: NH 780562

OS 1:50,000 SHEET NO: Landranger Series 27
1:25,000 SHEET NO: Explorer Series 422

AREA: 50.11 hectares

NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES**Geological: Quaternary geology and geomorphology: Quaternary of Scotland****DESCRIPTION**

The site is located close to Fort George, 15 km east of Inverness. It encompasses a suite of glacial and marine landforms and deposits which make up the Ardersier peninsula and provide important evidence for the history of the Late Devensian (last) ice sheet and Devensian late-glacial and Holocene shorelines in the Moray Firth area. The key interest at this site comprises a sequence of contorted silts, sands and clays. These contain marine shells and are believed to have been deposited by a re-advance of the last ice sheet which transported the material onshore. The deposits were washed over and trimmed by the sea in late-glacial times, producing fine examples of raised beach terraces, while at a lower level extensive Holocene (post-glacial) beach deposits flank the ice-transported material.

Ardersier therefore provides a suite of deposits and landforms of considerable relevance to studies of ice sheet history, the behaviour of the Moray Firth ice stream, relative sea-level change and glacier deposition. The site has considerable potential for further research on these issues.

NOTIFICATION HISTORY

First notified under the 1949 Act: 1979
Re-notified under the 1981 Act: 27 January 1984 with a 45.5 ha increase in area
Notification reviewed under the 2004 Act: 11 March 2009

REMARKS

Measured area of site corrected from 50.1 ha.