CITATION

TORVEAN LANDFORMS
SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST
HIGHLAND

Site code: 1557

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: NH 630420

OS 1:50,000 SHEET NO: Landranger Series 26
1:25,000 SHEET NO: Explorer Series 416

AREA: 402.65 hectares

NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES

Geological: Quaternary geology and geomorphology: Quaternary of Scotland

DESCRIPTION

Torvean Landforms SSSI lies on the south western edge of Inverness and straddles the A82 Inverness – Drumnadrochit road as far south as Dochgarroch. It is an important site for Quaternary geomorphology (less than 10 million years old) containing an excellent range of fluvioglacial landforms (deposited by meltwater) comprising kame terraces, eskers and kettleholes.

The site includes a suite of kame terraces and contains part of the Torvean esker which is one of the largest such features in Britain. Torvean provides an excellent illustration of a complex glacial drainage system and these features are important in understanding glacial processes during the last ice age. The presence of marine-trimmed features and raised shorelines adds a further dimension to the site's interest in demonstrating links between deglaciation and relative sea-level changes. Torvean is significant, therefore, not only for some classic landforms, but also for a wider assemblage of interrelated geomorphological features.

NOTIFICATION HISTORY

First notified under the 1949 Act: 1976
Re-notified under the 1981 Act: 16 March 1987
Notification reviewed under the 2004 Act: 30 January 2008

REMARKS

Measured area of site corrected (from 411.04 ha).