

## CITATION

**FOVERAN LINKS**  
**SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST**  
Aberdeenshire

Site code: 659

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: NK003235

OS 1: 50 000 SHEET NO: Landranger Series 38  
1: 25 000 SHEET NO: Explorer Series 421

AREA: 104.41 hectares

## NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES

Geological : Geomorphology : Coastal Geomorphology of Scotland  
Biological : Coastlands : Sand dunes

## DESCRIPTION

Foveran Links is situated 20 km to the north of Aberdeen and is important geologically and biologically for its sand dunes.

### Geological

Foveran Links is an important part of the Sands of Forvie coastal area to which it is closely linked by a variety of environmental processes. Foveran Links, together with Forvie, is a type example of what may be described as a normal sand dune system with a dynamic interchange of material between the frontal dunes and the extensive sand beach and spit complex at the mouth of the River Ythan. The site is important for the study of a wide variety of coastal landforms and processes.

### Biological

Foveran Links contains areas of mobile sand as well as semi-fixed dunes, dune grassland, dune slacks and marshes. The relationship between various plant communities and varying sand stability is shown and the continuing movement of sand allows direct observation of these interactions.

Several sand dune communities are well represented. Mobile dunes with marram grass *Ammophila arenaria* are extensive and embryonic foredunes with sand couch *Elytrigia juncea* are also found. The vegetation of dune hollows is especially interesting with rare and local plants such as curved sedge *Carex maritima*, small adder's-tongue fern *Ophioglossum azoricum*, water sedge *Carex aquatilis* and wood small-reed *Calamagrostis epigejos*. Species-rich dune grassland with wild thyme *Thymus polytrichus*, heath violet *Viola canina* and moonwort *Botrychium lunaria* is also represented.

## **NOTIFICATION HISTORY**

First notified under the 1949 Act: 1971 as Foveran and Drum Links SSSI.

Renotified under the 1981 Act: 14 February 1984 as Foveran Links SSSI with a reduction in area of 107.6 ha.

Partial denotification confirmed under the 2004 Act: 8 December 2020 with a reduction in area of 99.31 ha and revision of the citation.

## **REMARKS**

Foveran Links SSSI is adjacent to Sands of Forvie and Ythan Estuary SSSI.