

CITATION

WESTER CRAIGLOCKHART HILL SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST

EDINBURGH

Site code: 1615

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: NT 228702

OS 1:50,000 SHEET NO: Landranger Series 66
1:25,000 SHEET NO: Explorer Series NT 27/37

AREA: 3.46 ha.

NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES

BIOLOGICAL:	Lowland grassland:	Acid grassland:	Lowland acid grassland
		Calcareous grassland:	Lowland calcareous grassland

DESCRIPTION

This is an area of unimproved grassland over Wester Craiglockhart Hill, found approximately 4.5 km southwest of Edinburgh city centre, which is a very uncommon habitat and is one of the largest examples remaining. The grassland is varied, with acid and calcareous types being present.

Although not notified for its plant interest, the diversity of grassland types leads to an unusually high number of plant species for this area and several of the species present are uncommon in the Lothians. These include purple milk vetch *Astragalus danicus*, common rock rose *Helianthemum nummularium*, crested hair grass *Koeleria macrantha*, wild onion *Allium vineale*, black spleenwort *Asplenium adiantum-nigrum* and meadow oat-grass *Helictotrichon pratense*. One of the species, maiden pink *Dianthus deltoides* is rare in Scotland. Areas of scrub and neutral grassland are also present.

REMARKS

Measured area of site corrected (from 3.4ha).

NOTIFICATION HISTORY

Previous notifications for geological interest in 1957 and 1972 as Craiglockhart Hill West.
Notification under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981: 24 April 1986
Notification reviewed under the Nature Conservation (Scotland) 2004 Act: 21 February 2008