

CITATION

BEN CHONZIE
SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST
Perth & Kinross

Site Code: 178

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: NN 775310

O.S. 1:50,000 Sheet No: Landranger Series 51, 52
1:25,000 Sheet No: Explorer Series 368, 378, 379

AREA: 1642.34 ha

NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES:

Biological: Upland habitats: Upland assemblage
Vascular Plants: Vascular plant assemblage
Birds: Breeding bird assemblage

DESCRIPTION:

Ben Chonzie is the highest point (929 m) in the south-eastern Highlands nearly 13 km north-east of Crieff. It is notified for its nationally important assemblage of upland habitats, assemblage of rare plants and breeding birds.

Ben Chonzie is a southern outlier of the series of arctic-alpine sites on calcium-rich schist in the mountains of Breadalbane and elsewhere in Tayside. There is an extensive range of moorland communities including blanket mire with abundant cloudberry *Rubus chamaemorus*, heather moorland, montane heaths and acidic grasslands. Both acidic and calcareous flushes occur in places. Herb-rich grasslands occur beneath the species-rich cliffs.

The rare plant assemblage is typical of the Breadalbane montane calcicolous flora. The rarer species are mainly found in the tall-herb ledge communities and on open rock faces on the east-facing cliffs above Glen Turret. The rarest plant present is purple oxytropis *Oxytropis halleri* which occurs here at its only known location in west Perth & Kinross. The rare montane fern alpine woodsia *Woodsia alpina* has special protection and is also present. A range of other rare plants of conservation importance include alpine mouse-ear *Cerastium alpinum*, glaucous meadow-grass *Poa glauca*, downy willow *Salix lapponum* and hairy stonecrop *Sedum villosum*.

The breeding bird assemblage is well developed and characteristic of the Perthshire uplands. Amongst the many species recorded are birds of prey such as peregrine falcon, golden eagle, buzzard, and other upland species such as ptarmigan, raven and ring ouzel as well as the moorland waders dunlin, snipe and golden plover.

NOTIFICATION HISTORY

First notified under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949: 1972
Re-notified under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981: 15 December 1983
Reviewed under the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004: 29 March 2007

REMARKS

Measured area of site corrected (from 1677ha).