

CITATION

CRAIGS OF LUNDIE AND ARDGARTH LOCH SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST

Angus

Site code: 447

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: NO 279376

OS 1:50,000 SHEET NO: Landranger Series 53
1:25,000 SHEET NO: Explorer Series 380

AREA: 30.03 ha.

NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES:

Biological: **Fens: Basin fen**
Fens: Valley fen
Lowland heathland: Lowland dry heath
Non-montane rock habitats: Rocky slopes
Lowland grasslands: Lowland calcareous grassland

DESCRIPTION:

Craigs of Lundie and Ardgarth Loch SSSI lies approximately 6 km south-east of Coupar Angus in the eastern Sidlaw Hills in south-western Angus. The site comprises dry grassland, heath and valley fen at the foot of south-facing base-rich cliffs, and two areas of basin fen.

The species-rich plant and moss communities on the cliffs and grassland below contain species of restricted occurrence in Scotland, some of which are normally confined to the coast. Notable species include hairy violet *Viola hirta*, purple milk-vetch *Astragalus danicus* and bloody crane's-bill *Geranium sanguineum*.

Below the cliffs there is an area of rush-dominated valley fen and heathland where viviparous bistort *Persicaria vivipara* occurs in its only location in the Sidlaws.

Ardgarth Loch is now infilling with fen vegetation and is an extensive area of rich-fen, including notable species such as greater spearwort *Ranunculus lingua*, slender sedge *Carex lasiocarpa*, and lesser pond sedge *Carex acutiformis*. An adjacent small area of flushed mineral grassland drains into the loch. In an adjoining basin, poor-fen has developed which has a different suite of species in which mud sedge *Carex limosa* and bog mosses such as *Sphagnum russowii* and *Sphagnum teres* are common. The basin fen plant communities are thought to be the only examples of their type in the area. The wetland habitats form part of a network of mire sites in the eastern Sidlaws.

The combination of habitats and the transitions between them has created a site of unusually high species diversity in lowland Tayside.

NOTIFICATION HISTORY

First notified under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981: 30 January 1984

Reviewed under the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004: 23 April 2007,
citation revised 03 March 2014

REMARKS

Measured area amended (from 30.1 ha.)