

CITATION

DEN OF PITLURG SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST Moray, Aberdeenshire

Site code: 505

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: NJ438453

OS 1: 50 000 SHEET NO: Landranger Series 28
1: 25 000 SHEET NO: Explorer Series 424

AREA: 39.4 hectares

NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES

Biological : Woodlands : Upland birch woodland
: Fens : Valley fen

DESCRIPTION

The Den of Pitlurg is located 5km to the south of Keith. It comprises a narrow meltwater channel extending for 3km. The floor of the den contains wet fen vegetation which is floristically very rich whilst the adjacent steep slopes, part of an ancient woodland site, support birch and hazel woodland.

The fen vegetation is dominated by meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria*, with large tussocks of greater tussock sedge *Carex paniculata*. Yellow flag *Iris pseudacorus*, marsh marigold *Caltha palustris*, bottle sedge *Carex rostrata* and globe flower *Trollius europaeus* are also found. There is also a local development of willow carr and of more acidic peatland vegetation.

The wooded slopes consist of a dense canopy of birch, with ash, bird cherry, gean, hazel, rowan and sloe. The field layer of the woodland is very rich in places with species such as dog's mercury *Mercurialis perennis*, sanicle *Sanicula europaea*, moschatel *Adoxa moschatellina*, early purple orchid *Orchis mascula* and wood sedge *Carex sylvatica*. Slopes to the south of the woodland are grazed and patches of heathland and herb-rich grassland are found.

NOTIFICATION HISTORY

First notified under 1981 Act: 26 October 1983.
Reviewed under the 2004 Act: 9 June 2011.

REMARKS

Measured area of site corrected (from 42.5 ha).