CITATION

DINNET OAKWOOD
SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST
Aberdeenshire

Site code: 514

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: NO463980

OS 1: 50 000 SHEET NO: Landranger Series 37
1: 25 000 SHEET NO: Explorer Series 405

AREA: 19.7 hectares

NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES

Biological : Woodland : Upland oak woodland

DESCRIPTION

Dinnet Oakwood is located on the south side of the river Dee between Aboyne and Ballater. This small oakwood lies on gentle, north-facing morainic slopes at between 150-200 metres. Although partly, or even wholly, the product of plantings in the early nineteenth century, Dinnet Oakwood retains the character of a relatively undisturbed semi-natural northern oakwood and is one of the best examples in north-east Scotland. Birch replaces oak as the dominant tree on the east and west extremities of the site. Hazel *Corylus avellana* occurs locally in the shrub-layer.

The soils are brown earths varying from leached soils on the drier ridges, dominated by blaeberry *Vaccinium myrtillus*, to more basic types with mull humus where species such as wild strawberry *Fragaria vesca* and stone bramble *Rubus saxatilis* are present. The greater part of the wood's field-layer is dominated by bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* and creeping soft-grass *Holcus mollis* with wood anemone *Anemone nemorosa*, typical of the light woodland soils of the Dee valley. Characteristic northern species present include intermediate wintergreen *Pyrola media*, chickweed wintergreen *Trientalis europaea* and stag's-horn club-moss *Lycopodium clavatum*. Wet depressions within the wood have small stands of alder, aspen and willow with meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria* and marsh thistle *Cirsium palustre*.

NOTIFICATION HISTORY

First notified under the 1949 Act: 1971.
Re-notified under the 1981 Act: 14 February 1984.
Notification reviewed under the 2004 Act: 2 June 2011.

REMARKS

Dinnet Oakwood SSSI is designated as Dinnet Oakwood Special Area of Conservation (SAC) for the European habitat Western acidic oak woodland.