

CITATION

FINDON MOOR
SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST
Aberdeenshire

Site code: 636

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: NO941974

OS 1: 50 000 SHEET NO: Landranger Series: 38
1: 25 000 SHEET NO: Explorer Series: 406

AREA: 25.9 hectares

NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES

Biological : Lowland heathland : Lowland dry heath
: Lowland wet heath

DESCRIPTION

Findon Moor is an area of heathland on the east coast of Aberdeenshire, 15 km north of Stonehaven.

The heathland has developed on Dalradian Grits which are more acidic in nature than the Old Red Sandstone towards Stonehaven. Coastal heathland is rare in Aberdeenshire and Findon Moor is one of the largest areas remaining and the best example in south Aberdeenshire. The site is exceptional in the diversity of habitats present, from the rocky shore to the heath.

The main heathland vegetation type at Findon is dry heath dominated by ling heather *Calluna vulgaris* with patches of crowberry *Empetrum nigrum* and bell heather *Erica cinerea* and with lichen and moss communities (e.g. *Cladonia furcata*, *Evernia prunastri*, *Hypogymnia physodes*) on rocky knolls. Wet heath dominated by cross-leaved heath *Erica tetralix* and ling heather also occurs, along with wet flushes dominated by bog asphodel *Narthecium ossifragum* and common cotton-grass *Eriophorum angustifolium*.

On the seaward slopes the heathland grades through turf dominated by ling heather, crowberry and mat grass *Nardus stricta* to coastal grassland.

Heath spotted-orchid *Dactylorhiza maculata*, early-purple orchid *Orchis mascula* and fragrant orchid *Gymnadenia conopsea* frequently occur on the moor.

NOTIFICATION HISTORY

First notified under 1981 Act: 28 November 1985.
Notification reviewed under the 2004 Act: 7 June 2011.

REMARKS

Measured area of site corrected from 26.2 ha.

