

## CITATION

### KELLAS OAKWOOD SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST

Moray

Site code: 829

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: NJ156539

OS 1: 50 000 SHEET NO: Landranger Series 28  
1: 25 000 SHEET NO: Explorer Series 423

AREA: 25.9 hectares

## NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES

Biological : Woodlands : Upland oak woodland

## DESCRIPTION

Kellas Oakwood is located 10 km south-west of Elgin. It is one of the best examples of oak woodlands in Moray. It occupies a predominantly south-east facing slope between 150 and 275m above sea level. The woodland is ancient and semi-natural, the earliest record of its management being from 1798 when it was managed as oak coppice.

Much of the woodland is now a dense, single-storied, pure stand of sessile oak with little or no shrub layer. The field layer reflects the acid brown earth soils with abundant wavy hair grass *Deschampsia flexuosa* as well as hard fern *Blechnum spicant*, bell heather *Erica cinerea*, chickweed winter-green *Trientalis europaea*, blaeberry *Vaccinium myrtillus*, climbing corydalis *Corydalis claviculata*, cow-wheat *Melampyrum pratense* and *Dicranum* mosses. At the foot of the slope local soil enrichment and flushing gives rise to a slightly richer community with primrose *Primula vulgaris* and bugle *Ajuga reptans*.

On the upper slopes oak is scarce, being replaced by birch over a field layer dominated by the Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus* and bracken *Pteridium aquilinum*. Several glades exist, some also dominated by bracken, others containing fragments of dwarf-shrub heath dominated by ling heather *Calluna vulgaris*.

## NOTIFICATION HISTORY

First notified under the 1981 Act: 18 August 1988.  
Reviewed under the 2004 Act: 26 May 2011.

## REMARKS

Measured area of site corrected (from 25.8 ha).