

## CITATION

**KINNOULL HILL**  
**SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST**  
Perth and Kinross

Site code: 861

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: NO 134229

OS 1:50,000 SHEET NO: 58, 53 Landranger Series  
1:25,000 SHEET NO: 369 Explorer Series

AREA: 72.41 hectares

## NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES

**Biological: Woodlands: Upland oak woodland**  
**Non-montane rock habitats: Rocky slopes**  
**Geological: Igneous petrology: Carboniferous-Permian igneous**

## DESCRIPTION

Kinnoull Hill is located immediately to the east of Perth overlooking the River Tay and its estuary to the south. The site is important for its oak and birch woodland, the botanical interest of the cliffs on the south side, and for its geological interest in the former quarry at Corsiehill.

The woodland consists mainly of oak and birch. Close to the summit there are still remnant patches of open heathland with heather *Calluna vulgaris*, bell heather *Erica cinerea* and blaeberry *Vaccinium myrtillus*. Succession by broom, gorse, hawthorn and rose has reduced this area, which in turn is being colonised by trees. This is one of the few remaining birch, oak and heathland sites in lowland Perth & Kinross

The spectacular andesite cliffs on the south side, including the shallow dry soils on the cliff tops, have the best examples of this habitat in east Perth & Kinross. A rich flora is due to the relatively high calcium content of the rocks and the southerly aspect. Here there are a number of more typically coastal species, ruderal plants and those near the north limits of their British distributions, for example wild onion *Allium vineale*, purple milk-vetch *Astragalus danicus*, little mouse-ear *Cerastium semidecandrum*, knotted clover *Trifolium striatum*, viper's bugloss *Echium vulgare*, and hare's-foot clover *Trifolium arvense*.

An important component of the Carboniferous and Permian volcanicity in Central and Southern Scotland was the intrusion of a generally east-west trending dyke swarm which intruded very late in the Carboniferous Period. Corsiehill Quarry has been opened in one of these dykes and the exposures in this site have been chosen as the most accessible and representative example of the swarm as a whole.

**NOTIFICATION HISTORY**

First notified under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981: 1 March 1984

Notification reviewed under the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act: 2004:

11 February 2011

**REMARKS**

Measured area of site corrected (from 72.8 ha).