



Tayside Biodiversity Partnership



**BIODIVERSITY**  
THE VARIETY OF LIFE



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# Local Nature Conservation Sites Project



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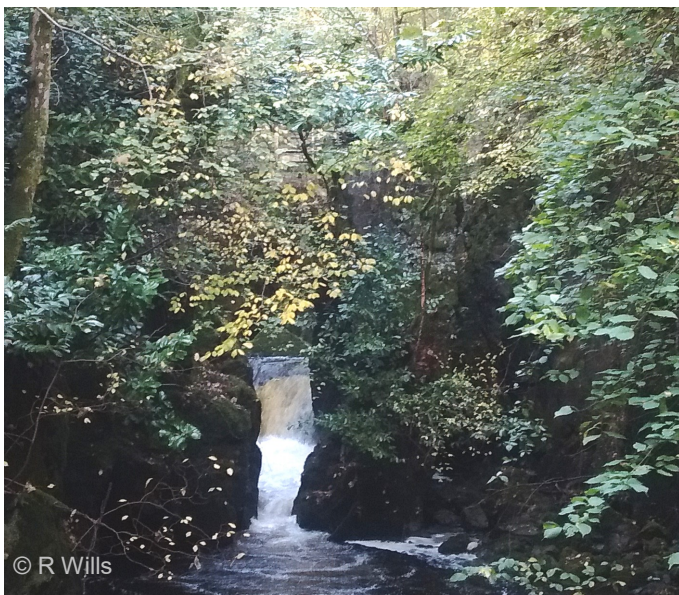
Angus and Perth & Kinross Councils are undertaking a review of sites of local and national importance for biodiversity and geodiversity. This is in line with guidance on the selection of Local Nature Conservation Sites (LNCS) across Scotland.

### What are Local Nature Conservation Sites?

These are sites that are of local or regional importance for their biodiversity or geological/geomorphological value. Sites will be referred to as Local Biodiversity Sites or Local Geodiversity Sites.

Local Nature Conservation Sites (LNCS) will be of advisory status, unlike European Natura Sites or Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) which have statutory protection.

There may be an overlap between LNCS and SSSIs which are notified for a different feature. Some Local Geodiversity Sites will correspond to existing Geological Conservation Review sites.



### Why Identify LNCS?

Sites of local and regional importance make a considerable contribution towards the biodiversity resource. They also enhance the quality of the local environment and can stimulate local awareness and engagement in conservation and education.

LNCS do not affect the day to day management of a site or any existing use. The sites will be identified in both Councils' Local Development Plans or associated guidance, which provides an opportunity to enhance or protect the important features of a site if new development is proposed.



### How Will LNCS Be Selected?

Sites have to meet set criteria to be selected as LNCS.

For Local Biodiversity Sites, criteria include:

- Species and habitat diversity and rarity
- Habitat naturalness and extent
- Connectivity / green networks

For Local Geodiversity Sites, criteria include:

- Value for study and education
- Cultural, historic and scenic value

For both types of sites:

- the potential to facilitate enjoyment and understanding of natural heritage.

### Who Will Select LNCS?

Information on candidate sites has been provided by the Scottish Wildlife Trust, Tayside Geodiversity and through literature reviews. Further information is being provided by members of the Tayside Biodiversity Partnership including Tayside Geodiversity, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland, and Council services with the assistance of Scottish Natural Heritage.

Wider LNCS Expert Groups will assist the Councils with this process. These include:

- Local biodiversity and geology experts
- Scottish Natural Heritage
- National Farmers' Union Scotland
- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
- Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland

### Biodiversity and Geodiversity Surveys

Up to date information is required to assess sites which may involve a quick check or a more detailed survey. It is intended that geodiversity surveys will take place in autumn/winter 2019/2020; and biodiversity surveys in spring/summer 2020. These can often be carried out from public roads and core paths but a surveyor may need to enter private land on foot for more detailed information. They will follow the Scottish Outdoor Access Code. We will contact land owners and managers in advance wherever possible and provide them with the data gathered. This may be useful for SRDP applications. We will discuss the proposed designation of a site with landowners and managers and the final designation of the site will be subject to public consultation.