Dundee Law is a Local Geodiversity Site. This means it is a place that people can visit to learn more about their local landscape and its geology.

Tayside Geodiversity aims to identify and publicise a network of Local Geodiversity Sites to increase public awareness of the Dundee area helped to shape the character of both the Dundee area and the City of Dundee is told in this leaflet.

In October 2000 Dundee Law was designated a Local Geodiversity Site.

About Local Geodiversity Sites (LGS)

Dundee Law is a Local Geodiversity Site. This means it is a place that people can visit to learn more about their local landscape and its geology.

Using the Rocks

1. Quarrying the Law

The igneous intrusion of the Law is made of a rock called Andesite. Andesite is named after the Andes Mountains in South America where it is a very common rock type. The andesite was quarried as a reinforcing stone for building.

The old quarry is on the north side of the Law and can be examined from the road that leads to the top. The molten rock (magma) cooled into crude polygonal columns. There are also vertical joints with some brown iron staining. Rain and frost continues to decompose the outer skin of the rock to expose fresh surfaces which, in their turn, are attacked by water. This is called spheroidal or ‘onion-skin’ weathering.

2. Paving Stones from Mud

Sandstones of variable quality. Some sandstone is very rich in the mineral mica that causes the stone to flake and weather badly.

3. Dundee Tenements

The tenement buildings of Dundee were built to house a rapidly growing work force as the city expanded. They are built from stone obtained from local quarries such as Carmyllie near Camoustie and Kingoodie in Tillyfour. These provided grey sandstones of variable quality. Some sandstone is very rich in the mineral mica that causes the stone to flake and weather badly.

Location and Access

It is possible to drive to the top of Dundee Law via Law Road. This can be reached from Hill Street or Kingshorn Road at the east end of the Law. The Law can be easily climbed from any direction, except from the north where there are rocky outcrops. This can be reached from Hill Street or Kinghorne Road at the east end of the Law. It is possible to drive to the top of Dundee Law via Law Road.

The War Memorial

On Armistice Day (11th November) the War Memorial on the summit of the Law is lit by a beacon. It was completed in 1925 and stands on a base of light grey Cornwall granite. A beacon is lit on several significant days - 25 September (the Battle of Loos in World War I), 24th October (United Nations Day) and 11 November (Armistice Day) and on Remembrance Sunday.

In the East Port.

The wooden building on the left stands where the Engine House stood. A view from the east of the Engine House is clearly seen here. The wooden building was the entrance to the East Port. It is the largest of the important buildings at the East Port complex. The entrance is clearly seen here.

On the summit of the Law. Thank you Grandad. “

Design Print: Angus Council Print & Design Unit

Tayside Geodiversity is affiliated to the Edinburgh Geological Society, a charity registered in Scotland: Charity No. SC008011

www.taysidebiodiversity.co.uk/geodiversity

E: museum@pkc.gov.uk

T: 01738 632488

78 George Street. Perth, PH1 5LB

c/o Perth Museum & Art Gallery

Tayside Geodiversity

A charity registered in Scotland: Charity No. SC008011

This leaflet was produced in the memory of Mr John Scobie of Lawside Road.

“Still greatly missed, many thanks for all the happy hours up the Law. Thank you Grandad.”

Tayside Geodiversity is affiliated to the Edinburgh Geological Society, a charity registered in Scotland: Charity No. SC008011

www.taysidebiodiversity.co.uk/geodiversity

E: museum@pkc.gov.uk

T: 01738 632488

78 George Street. Perth, PH1 5LB

c/o Perth Museum & Art Gallery

Tayside Geodiversity

A charity registered in Scotland: Charity No. SC008011

This leaflet was produced in the memory of Mr John Scobie of Lawside Road.

“Still greatly missed, many thanks for all the happy hours up the Law. Thank you Grandad.”

Tayside Geodiversity is affiliated to the Edinburgh Geological Society, a charity registered in Scotland: Charity No. SC008011

www.taysidebiodiversity.co.uk/geodiversity

E: museum@pkc.gov.uk

T: 01738 632488

78 George Street. Perth, PH1 5LB

c/o Perth Museum & Art Gallery

Tayside Geodiversity

A charity registered in Scotland: Charity No. SC008011

This leaflet was produced in the memory of Mr John Scobie of Lawside Road.

“Still greatly missed, many thanks for all the happy hours up the Law. Thank you Grandad.”

Tayside Geodiversity is affiliated to the Edinburgh Geological Society, a charity registered in Scotland: Charity No. SC008011

www.taysidebiodiversity.co.uk/geodiversity

E: museum@pkc.gov.uk

T: 01738 632488

78 George Street. Perth, PH1 5LB

c/o Perth Museum & Art Gallery

Tayside Geodiversity

A charity registered in Scotland: Charity No. SC008011

This leaflet was produced in the memory of Mr John Scobie of Lawside Road.

“Still greatly missed, many thanks for all the happy hours up the Law. Thank you Grandad.”

Tayside Geodiversity is affiliated to the Edinburgh Geological Society, a charity registered in Scotland: Charity No. SC008011

www.taysidebiodiversity.co.uk/geodiversity

E: museum@pkc.gov.uk

T: 01738 632488

78 George Street. Perth, PH1 5LB

c/o Perth Museum & Art Gallery

Tayside Geodiversity

A charity registered in Scotland: Charity No. SC008011

This leaflet was produced in the memory of Mr John Scobie of Lawside Road.

“Still greatly missed, many thanks for all the happy hours up the Law. Thank you Grandad.”

Tayside Geodiversity is affiliated to the Edinburgh Geological Society, a charity registered in Scotland: Charity No. SC008011

www.taysidebiodiversity.co.uk/geodiversity

E: museum@pkc.gov.uk

T: 01738 632488

78 George Street. Perth, PH1 5LB

c/o Perth Museum & Art Gallery

Tayside Geodiversity

A charity registered in Scotland: Charity No. SC008011

This leaflet was produced in the memory of Mr John Scobie of Lawside Road.

“Still greatly missed, many thanks for all the happy hours up the Law. Thank you Grandad.”

Tayside Geodiversity is affiliated to the Edinburgh Geological Society, a charity registered in Scotland: Charity No. SC008011

www.taysidebiodiversity.co.uk/geodiversity

E: museum@pkc.gov.uk

T: 01738 632488

78 George Street. Perth, PH1 5LB

c/o Perth Museum & Art Gallery

Tayside Geodiversity

A charity registered in Scotland: Charity No. SC008011

This leaflet was produced in the memory of Mr John Scobie of Lawside Road.

“Still greatly missed, many thanks for all the happy hours up the Law. Thank you Grandad.”

Tayside Geodiversity is affiliated to the Edinburgh Geological Society, a charity registered in Scotland: Charity No. SC008011

www.taysidebiodiversity.co.uk/geodiversity

E: museum@pkc.gov.uk

T: 01738 632488

78 George Street. Perth, PH1 5LB

c/o Perth Museum & Art Gallery

Tayside Geodiversity

A charity registered in Scotland: Charity No. SC008011

This leaflet was produced in the memory of Mr John Scobie of Lawside Road.

“Still greatly missed, many thanks for all the happy hours up the Law. Thank you Grandad.”

Tayside Geodiversity is affiliated to the Edinburgh Geological Society, a charity registered in Scotland: Charity No. SC008011

www.taysidebiodiversity.co.uk/geodiversity

E: museum@pkc.gov.uk

T: 01738 632488

78 George Street. Perth, PH1 5LB

c/o Perth Museum & Art Gallery

Tayside Geodiversity

A charity registered in Scotland: Charity No. SC008011

This leaflet was produced in the memory of Mr John Scobie of Lawside Road.

“Still greatly missed, many thanks for all the happy hours up the Law. Thank you Grandad.”

Tayside Geodiversity is affiliated to the Edinburgh Geological Society, a charity registered in Scotland: Charity No. SC008011

www.taysidebiodiversity.co.uk/geodiversity

E: museum@pkc.gov.uk

T: 01738 632488

78 George Street. Perth, PH1 5LB

c/o Perth Museum & Art Gallery

Tayside Geodiversity

A charity registered in Scotland: Charity No. SC008011

This leaflet was produced in the memory of Mr John Scobie of Lawside Road.

“Still greatly missed, many thanks for all the happy hours up the Law. Thank you Grandad.”

Tayside Geodiversity is affiliated to the Edinburgh Geological Society, a charity registered in Scotland: Charity No. SC008011

www.taysidebiodiversity.co.uk/geodiversity

E: museum@pkc.gov.uk

T: 01738 632488

78 George Street. Perth, PH1 5LB

c/o Perth Museum & Art Gallery

Tayside Geodiversity

A charity registered in Scotland: Charity No. SC008011

This leaflet was produced in the memory of Mr John Scobie of Lawside Road.
1. Deserts and Floods
About 415 million years ago during the Lower Devonian geological period, the site of Dundee was in the interior of a large continent called Laurentia. The climate was hot and dry with seasonal floods. During the floods, rivers left masses of sand and gravel that now form grey to brown sandstone in the Dundee area. Similarly, muddy sediments, laid down in rivers or in shallow lakes now form mudstones.

2. Volcanoes
Volcanic activity during the Lower Devonian erupted thick layers of lava onto the river and lake sediments. Some magma (molten rock) did not erupt at the surface but solidified underground. These are known as igneous intrusions. Dundee Law is formed from one of these igneous intrusions. The volcanic activity was associated with the final closure of an ancient ocean called the Iapetus Ocean, which previously separated Scotland and England.

3. Tilting and Erosion
Over the millions of years since the Lower Devonian earth movements have tilted, folded and faulted the layers of rock in the Dundee area and erosion has exposed rocks that were once deeply buried.

4. Ice Age
During the Ice Age which began around 2.6 million years ago, a succession of ice-sheets flowed from the west. The hard lavas and igneous intrusions resisted the erosive power of the ice better than the softer sandstones and mudstones. The ice sheets moved over the Law and the ice was so thick that it covered the top by several hundreds of metres. The ice sheet excavated deep troughs in the sedimentary rocks to the north and south, while the igneous intrusion of the Law remained as a high point. The western slope of the law, exposed to the full force of the ice-flow, is steep, but the eastern side, protected by the crag, is a “tail” made of softer glacial debris known as till.

5. After the Ice
After the ice sheets finally melted, around 15,000 years ago, soil and plants gradually returned to cover the slopes. The volcanic rock and glacial till of the Law now produces fertile soil, which is good news for those with allotments on the lower slopes.