

CITATION

MUGDOCK WOOD
SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST
Stirling and East Dunbartonshire

Site code: 1210

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: NS 549767

OS 1:50,000 SHEET NO: Landranger Series 64
1:25,000 SHEET NO: Explorer Series 348

AREA: 168.92 hectares

NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES

Biological:	Woodlands	: Upland oak woodland
	Woodlands	: Wet woodland
	Lowland heathland	: Lowland dry heath
	Lowland heathland	: Lowland wet heath
	Freshwater habitats	: Mesotrophic loch
	Invertebrates	: Beetle assemblage

DESCRIPTION

Mugdock Wood Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) is located 3 miles north of Milngavie, Glasgow and to the south of the Campsie Fells. Within the SSSI are Mugdock Country Park, Mugdock Wood, Mugdock Loch and Drumclog Moor. This site has an unusual association of diverse semi-natural habitats of wooded and non-wooded features. The soil and geology as well as disturbance by man through agriculture and foot traffic have contributed to the variability of the habitats. The features of the site include extensive areas of ancient upland oak woodland and wet woodland, smaller areas of dry and wet heathland, open water, and a large population of locally rare beetles.

There is an unusually large area of relatively undisturbed woodland. The ancient deciduous woodland includes oak woodland on acid upland soils. Both the pedunculate oak *Quercus robur* and the sessile oak *Q. petraea* are here, and the *Q. robur* is likely to have come from southern stock. The ash/elm woodland with non-native sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* generally occurs on more base-rich soil types, as well as among the oaks. The decline of elm has left a niche for sycamore and it does have some value for its shade cast on the forest floor early in the season which gives shelter to understory species. The alder woods occur in wetter soils and are notable because they have particularly tall, straight trunks. The multi-stemmed structure of the trees indicates coppicing.

The site is rich in deadwood which supports a number of rare invertebrates, notably beetles, including several such as *Acritus nigricornis* and *Cerylon histeroides* which are restricted to ancient deciduous woodland and one which occurs nowhere else in Scotland, *Geostiba armata*.

Drumclog Moor was formerly wooded but was used for farming up through the Second World War, ending in the 1950s. The affects of agricultural practices, climate, and mostly acid soils have created areas with variable drainage that were quickly colonised by heathland vegetation to create wet and dry heathlands. The wet and dry heath blend seamlessly into one another and the wet heathland often occurs as very small pockets. Wet and acid areas contain bog mosses *Sphagnum Spp.*, hair's tail cottongrass *Eriophorum vaginatum* and cross-leaved heath *Erica tetralix*. Drier areas have bent grass *Agrostis vinealis* and sheep's fescue *Festuca ovina* communities with blaeberry *Vaccinium myrtillus*.

Mugdock Loch is a fresh water mesotrophic loch which is notable for a large population of nationally rare least yellow water lily *Nuphar pumila*.

NOTIFICATION HISTORY

First notified under the 1949 Act: 1973

Re-notified under the 1981 Act: 24 January 1986 with a 17.7 ha increase in area.

Notification reviewed under the 2004 Act: 13 May 2010

REMARKS

Measured area of site corrected (from 170.8 ha)