

CITATION**NETHAN GORGE
SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST
South Lanarkshire**

Site code: 1218

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: NS 815464

OS 1:50,000 SHEET NO: Landranger Series 72
1:25,000 SHEET NO: Explorer Series 343

AREA: 39.8 hectares

NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES**Biological: Woodlands: Upland mixed ash woodland
Biological: Invertebrates: Beetle assemblage****DESCRIPTION**

Nethan Gorge Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) lies directly west of Crossford in South Lanarkshire. It is an outstanding example of semi-natural deciduous gorge woodland, which also supports an important assemblage of woodland beetles (Coleoptera), especially saproxylic species.

The woodland, which occupies a Carboniferous limestone gorge, has an excellent structure and a rich ground flora. The canopy is dominated by elm, ash and oak. Herb-rich meadows and deciduous scrub form an integral part of the site.

The rich invertebrate fauna within the site includes a number of uncommon beetles which are associated with leaf litter, underground fungi and dead and decaying wood. They include the nationally scarce *Cerylon fagi*, *Tetratoma ancora* and *Ptinomorphus imperialis*.

NOTIFICATION HISTORY

First notified under the 1949 Act: 1953, 1971, 1979

Re-notified under the 1981 Act: 5 August 1983, with an approximate 0.2 ha decrease in area.

Notification reviewed under the 2004 Act: 6 January 2010

REMARKS

Measured area of site corrected (from 43.2 hectares).

Most of the Nethan Gorge SSSI is designated as part of the Clyde Valley Woods Special Area of Conservation (SAC) for the European habitat listed below.

Habitat: Mixed woodland on base-rich soils associated with rocky slopes