

CITATION

BALLAGAN GLEN
SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST
Stirling

Site code: 125

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: NS 572800

OS 1:50,000 SHEET NO: Landranger Series 64

1:25,000 SHEET NO: Explorer Series 348

AREA: 6.81 hectares

NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES

Geological: Stratigraphy: Lower Carboniferous [Dinantian – Namurian (part)]

Biological: Woodland: Upland mixed ash woodland

DESCRIPTION

Ballagan Glen is a steep-sided glen on the south face of the Campsie Fells and less than a mile east of the village of Strathblane, to the north of Glasgow. The upper limit of the glen is a waterfall above a feature known as the Spout of Ballagan.

The site is a classic section for rocks of the Carboniferous Cementstone Group. It is the type locality for the Ballagan Beds, a sequence dominated by cementstone-shale rhythms ('regular lithological alternations'). The cyclical nature of the sedimentary sequence is well-displayed and many features of sedimentological interest occur. This is a key locality for studies of stratigraphy and sedimentation in the Dinantian rocks of Scotland.

The underlying geology and soils have given rise to ancient deciduous gorge woodland with base-rich soils. The tree canopy is dominated by ash with frequent to occasional hazel, alder, bird cherry, birch, rowan and gean. The ground flora is characterised by species associated with these soil conditions and includes enchanter's nightshade *Circaea lutetiana*, dog's mercury *Mercurialis perennis*, sweet woodruff *Galium odoratum*, yellow pimpernel *Lysimachia nemorum*, and moschatel *Adoxa moschatellina*. The pendulous sedge *Carex pendula* occurs here at one of its few locations in the area.

Wet ashwoods of this type are uncommon in the Stirling Council area, and this site, although relatively small, is very species-rich.

NOTIFICATION HISTORY

First notified under the 1949 Act: 1955, 1973.

Re-notified under the 1981 Act: 23 August 1985

Notification reviewed under the 2004 Act: 19 November 2009

REMARKS

Measured area of site corrected (from 7.2 ha)