

CITATION

WOOD OF CREE SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST Dumfries and Galloway

Site code: 1644

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: NX 382712

OS 1:50,000 SHEET NO: Landranger Series 77
1:25,000 SHEET NO: Explorer Series 319

AREA: 142.93 hectares

NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES

Biological: Woodlands: Upland oak woodland
Freshwater habitats: Oligotrophic loch

DESCRIPTION

Wood of Cree Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) lies approximately 4km northwest of Newton Stewart on the east bank of the valley of the River Cree. The site is the largest and most important example of ancient coppice woodland in the area. Historical records for the wood stretch back to the 13th Century.

The range of vegetation types included in the site vary from acid oak woodland on the upper slopes through base-rich hazel stands on the lower slopes to willow carr and floodplain mire adjacent to the River Cree. The three lochs within the site are examples of oligotrophic water lily pools with characteristic species of pondweed and a stonewort. Of these, *Potamogeton obtusifolius* and *P. alpinus* are locally uncommon. The transition from floodplain mire with swamp and/or fen fringes that contain some uncommon species such as *Carex aquatilis* and *Hypericum elodes* to open water with a diverse emergent and submerged flora is an additional feature of interest.

The site has a rich invertebrate fauna which includes slugs characteristic of old woodlands and rare species of beetles and flies. The breeding bird community is moderately rich and the woodland ravines have rich communities of bryophytes, including some species rare in SW Scotland.

NOTIFICATION HISTORY

First notified under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949: 1956.

Re-notified under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981: 05 August 1983, with a 29ha reduction in area.

Notification reviewed under the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004: 21 May 2010.

REMARKS

Measured area of site corrected (from 145 ha).

The SSSI is part of Galloway Oakwoods Special Area of Conservation (SAC), which is designated for the European habitats listed below:

Habitats: Western acidic oak woodland