

CITATION

**GLENMORE FOREST
SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST
HIGHLAND (Badenoch and Strathspey)**

Site code: 1665

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: NH 990090; NH 958105;

OS 1:50,000 SHEET NO: Landranger Series 36
1:25,000 SHEET NO: Explorer Series 403

AREA: 1,440.38 hectares

NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES

Geological

Quaternary geology and geomorphology: Quaternary of Scotland

Biological

Birds: Capercaillie *Tetrao urogallus*

Birds: Scottish crossbill *Loxia scotica*

Invertebrates: Narrow-headed ant *Formica exsecta*

Vascular plants: Vascular plant assemblage

Woodlands: Native pinewood

DESCRIPTION

Glenmore Forest lies on the north-west slopes of Cairn Gorm and is predominantly a Caledonian pine forest growing over a variety of glacial and fluvial-glacial deposits and landforms.

There are extensive Quaternary deposits and landforms produced by the melting of the last Scottish ice sheet: e.g. eskers, kames, terraces, meltwater channels and kettle holes. These features provide important evidence for the reconstruction of the pattern of deglaciation at the end of the last Ice Age and the associated climate changes.

Glenmore Forest is an important and linking component of the chain of native pinewoods stretching from Glenfeshie to Abernethy which together form the largest expanse of native pinewood remaining in the UK. Although much of the native forest was felled in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, substantial areas of semi-natural woodland have survived. Around 400 ha of the site is self-sown native pinewood together with a similar area of planted Scots pine of local origin which is now being managed for conservation. Small areas of juniper *Juniperus communis* scrub occur and alder *Alnus glutinosa*, willows *Salix* species and Scots pine *Pinus sylvestris* form bog woodland in wetter areas. At lower altitudes scattered tree regeneration of

birch, willow, rowan and Scots pine is expanding on to areas of open heath whilst at higher elevations a natural tree line is developing.

The site is notified for its vascular plant assemblage which contains many species associated with native pinewoods including One flowered wintergreen *Moneses uniflora* Twinflower *Linnaea borealis*, Small cranberry *Vaccinium microcarpum* and Intermediate wintergreen *Pyrola media*.

The site is also notified for its populations of Scottish crossbill *Loxia scotica*, Capercaillie *Tetrao urogallus*, and narrow-headed ant *Formica exsecta*. These species are all associated with the pinewood habitats.

NOTIFICATION HISTORY

First notified under the 1981 Act: 27 September 1996

Notification reviewed under the 2004 Act: 30 October 2008

REMARKS

This site also includes Allt Mor SSSI.

Measured area of the site corrected from 1441 ha.

Glenmore Forest SSSI is part of the Cairngorms Special Area of Conservation and parts also lie within the River Spey Special Area of Conservation. These sites are designated for the habitats and species listed below. Glenmore Forest SSSI is also part of the Cairngorms Special Protection Area designated for the birds listed below.

Habitats:

- Acid peat-stained lakes and ponds
- Acidic scree
- Alpine and sub alpine heaths
- Blanket bog
- Bog woodland
- Caledonian forest
- Clear-water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation and poor to moderate nutrient levels
- Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone
- Dry heaths
- Hard-water springs depositing lime
- High altitude plant communities associated with areas of water seepage
- Juniper on heaths or calcareous grasslands
- Montane acid grasslands
- Mountain willow scrub
- Plants in crevices on acid rocks
- Plants in crevices on base-rich rocks
- Species-rich grassland with mat-grass in upland areas
- Tall herb communities
- Very wet mires often identified by an unstable 'quaking' surface.
- Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath

Species:

Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar*
Freshwater pearl mussel *Margaritifera margaritifera*
Otter *Lutra lutra*
Sea lamprey *Petromyzon marinus*
Green shield-moss *Buxbaumia viridis*

Birds:

Capercaillie *Tetrao urogallus*
Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*
Golden eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*
Merlin *Falco columbarius*
Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*
Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*
Scottish crossbill *Loxia scotica*