

CITATION**BOTHWELL CASTLE GROUNDS
SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST**
South Lanarkshire

Site code: 247

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: NS 686594

OS 1:50,000 SHEET NO: Landranger Series 64
1:25,000 SHEET NO: Explorer Series 342

AREA: 71.38 hectares

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

Bothwell Castle Grounds SSSI lies to the west of Bothwell and includes land on either side of the River Clyde. The site comprises an outstanding example of semi-natural deciduous woodland and supports an important invertebrate assemblage.

The woodland areas support a mixture of oak, ash and rowan dominated areas on the drier parts, with an alder and ash mixture on some of the flushed areas. Elm and birch also form important components of the canopy. The shrub layer is provided by grey willow, goat willow, hazel, bird cherry, elder and hawthorn. The ground flora is rich and representative of long established ancient semi-natural woodland.

The variety of habitat conditions present within the site has created conditions favourable for an important invertebrate assemblage, especially saproxylic species associated with old or dead wood, fungi growing on dead wood and sap runs. The site supports a number of Nationally Scarce beetle and fly species, including the beetles *Cerylon fagi*, *Hallomenus binotatus*, *Enicmus rugosus* and the flies *Brachyopa insensilis*, *Aulacigaster leucopeza* and *Periscelis* sp. Some of the adult forms of these species feed in flower-rich grassland within the site, e.g. the fungus beetle *Hallomenus binotatus*. Others, such as the weevil *Coeliodes ruber*, will also make use of the regenerating woodland areas.

NOTIFICATION HISTORY

First notified under the 1949 Act: 1953 and 1971

Re-notified under the 1981 Act: 23 February 1989 with an 8 ha net reduction in area

Notification reviewed under the 2004 Act: 10 September 2010

REMARKS

Measured area of site corrected from 73 ha.