

CITATION

AIRDS OF KELLS WOOD
SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST
Dumfries and Galloway

Site code: 26

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: NX 679706

OS 1:50,000 SHEET NO: Landranger Series 77, 84
1:25,000 SHEET NO: Explorer Series 320

AREA: 28.90 hectares

NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES

Biological: Woodlands: Upland oak woodland
 Upland mixed ash woodland

DESCRIPTION

Airds of Kells Wood is situated on the western banks of Loch Ken and lies 11km northwest of Castle Douglas. It is the largest remaining block of oak woodland in the Ken-Dee valley.

The oak woodland is mainly concentrated on the undulating upper part of the site. Where the ground slopes down towards Loch Ken, oak woodland grades into upland mixed ash woodland which predominates on deeper soils. The understorey features a mix of hazel, elm, birch, rowan and holly, adding significant structural and species diversity to the overall woodland. The ground flora is typical of woodland occurring on brown heath with a predominantly grassy sward, male fern and abundant, although not dominant bracken. Extensive patches of dog's mercury and bluebell highlight the ancient character of the woodland. Flushed lower slopes and boulder-strewn areas provide greater diversity and are rich in mosses and higher plants.

NOTIFICATION HISTORY

First notified under the National Parks & Access to the Countryside Act 1949: 1967.

Re-notified under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981: 11 November 1983, with a 6.15 ha decrease in area.

Notification reviewed under the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004: 6 March 2009 and 6 February 2019 (citation only).

REMARKS

Sixty metres south of this site lies the River Dee (Parton to Crossmichael) SSSI and the Loch Ken and River Dee Marshes Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar site.

Measured area of the site corrected (from 28.35 ha).