



Scottish Natural Heritage

**CALDER GLEN  
SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST**

30 Hope Street  
Lanark  
ML11 7NE

**SITE MANAGEMENT STATEMENT**

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**Site code: 293**

**Purpose**



This is a public statement prepared by SNH for owners and occupiers of the SSSI. It outlines the reasons it is designated as an SSSI and provides guidance on how its special natural features should be conserved or enhanced. This Statement does not affect or form part of the statutory notification and does not remove the need to apply for consent for operations requiring consent.

We welcome your views on this statement.

**Description of the site**

The Calder Glen Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), lying on the eastern edge of East Kilbride, is nationally important for its Carboniferous age rocks. The Carboniferous is a geological time period which started about 360 million years ago and ended about 299 million years ago. Throughout the Carboniferous, Britain lay on the Equator and consequently had a warm, tropical climate. The landscape at this time was constantly changing between coastal and marine environments. By the middle and end of the Carboniferous vast swamps gave rise to coal formations.

The site shows a nearly continuous sedimentary rock layer sequence that includes formations known as the 'Lawmuir Formation' and the 'Limestone Coal Formation'. The rocks and the fossils they contain help illustrate the geography, environment and ecology as the rock layer sequence was deposited over a period of around 15 million years during the Carboniferous.

Of particular geological interest is the occurrence of a fossil fauna at the north end of the site. This fauna includes a bivalve mollusc *Posidonia becheri*, which can also be found in rocks of the same age in England allowing a rare correlation to be made, and comparisons to be drawn between the two areas. This is an important major section for the Scottish Carboniferous.

The geological feature is considered to be in a favourable condition as the extent, composition and structure of the natural feature have been maintained. Although parts of the site are hard to access due to the physical geography of the site, the visibility within these areas is regarded as good as the sheer vertical faces remain relatively free

of vegetation or have vegetation, such as moss and liverworts, which are easily cleared to view the feature. However, in places, natural woodland processes may in the future reduce the visibility of, and access to, the rock formations. Fly-tipping does occur and although unsightly it does not currently impact on the feature.

Natural features of Calder Glen SSSI	Condition of feature (date monitored)
Lower Carboniferous [Dinantian - Namurian (part)]	Favourable, Maintained (February 2008)

	
Sandstone and shale exposures of the Lower Limestone Formation	Hosie Limestone and associated sediments at the southern tip of the site

### Past and present management

There is currently no active management of the site for nature conservation. However there is a formal trail partially within the site that is maintained by South Lanarkshire Council as this part of the site falls within Calderglen Country park, designated in 1979. The site is bordered largely by arable land to the east and residential properties to the west. A pipeline on concrete piers crosses the northern tip of the site and a sewage outflow pipe for a housing development adjacent to the western boundary was constructed in 1996.

### Objectives for Management (and key factors influencing the condition of natural features)

We wish to work with the owners and occupiers to protect the site and to maintain and where necessary enhance its features of special interest. SNH aims to carry out site survey, monitoring and research as appropriate to increase our knowledge and understanding of the site and its natural features.

1. **To maintain the composition and structure of the rock sequence** by ensuring sampling from exposures only takes place in accordance with the Geological Code. Outcrops should also be safeguarded from vegetation encroachment.

Exposures should remain free from encroachment of trees and scrub by removing young trees and saplings. Trees have fallen across the burn in places, which can occasionally impede access to exposures, therefore an element of tree and general vegetation control will have a beneficial effect upon the scientific interest.

Although the site has the potential for yielding fossil material and the fossils are scientifically important for allowing precise comparisons to be made with other rock sequences in the country, the material is not visually spectacular or of sufficient rarity to attract commercial collectors. The destruction of the rock sequence in pursuit of fossils is unlikely. Therefore small amounts of amateur collecting which occurs should be regarded as sustainable in the short term providing they follow the Geological Code and the Scottish Fossil Code (SNH, 2008 or later editions).

2. **To maintain visibility and access to the rock exposures** by ensuring protection from damaging impacts, in particular by preventing further unauthorised dumping and tipping of waste materials, or obstruction by other means and ensuring access to the site follows the Scottish Outdoor Access Code (SOAC).

Tipping of domestic waste has occurred and, although at present this has not affected the earth science interest, it does create a hazard to access and can obscure exposures, therefore tipping of any sort should be actively discouraged.

Future upgrading, replacement or demolition of the pipeline crossing the river at the north end of the site is unlikely to damage the scientific interest provided that areas not already built upon remain free from development and that any waste material derived, either through construction or demolition, is removed from the site

Any extension or upgrading of path networks into the SSSI should continue to be sensitive to rock exposures. The use of retaining structures such as gabions should be minimised.

Front page photograph: view of waterfall and exposed rock layers within Calder Glen SSSI.

Date last reviewed: 25 January 2010