



Scottish Natural Heritage
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DOLLAR GLEN
Site of Special Scientific Interest

SITE MANAGEMENT STATEMENT

Site code: 522

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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

Dollar Glen was selected as an SSSI on account of its diverse habitats and geology. The habitats include upland mixed ash woodland, springs and areas of wet seepage (flushes). A very rare beetle of high altitudes is found in the site. Geologically it is important for providing evidence for determining the geological history of central Scotland.

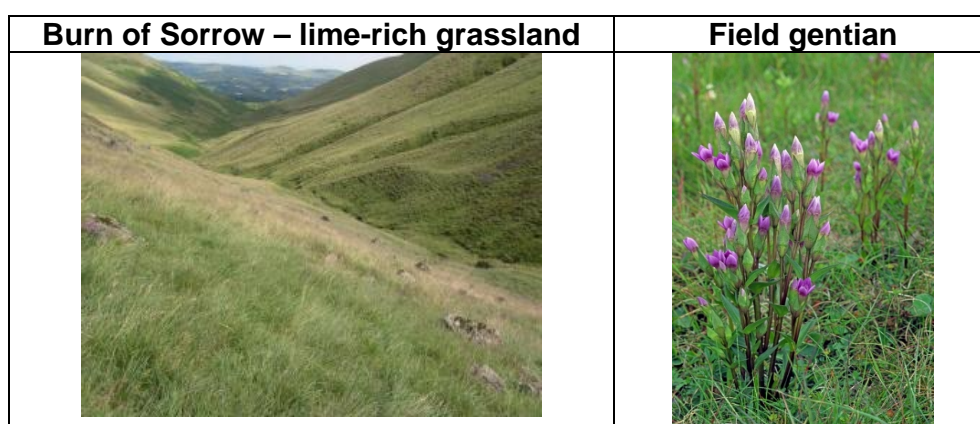
Dollar Glen is the largest, least disturbed example in Clackmannanshire of a deep, narrow, steep-sided gorge, supporting long-established woodland. The upper acid slopes of semi-natural deciduous woodland are dominated by oak with an understorey of birch and rowan and a characteristic ground flora. Lower slopes, naturally enriched with nutrients, support mixed valley woodland of ancient origin. These areas are dominated by ash and formerly wych elm which is gradually being replaced by sycamores as trees die from Dutch elm disease. The woodland is well structured with an understorey of hazel, bird cherry and saplings and a rich ground flora, including wood cranesbill which is a locally rare species. This is the only location in Clackmannanshire for the yellow star of Bethlehem and toothwort. Sheer, base rich rock faces support several local species of ferns and grasses and an abundant growth of mosses and liverworts. The Glen supports many bird species of which ring ouzel, twite and pied flycatcher are scarce within the area. A very rare crane fly is also present and the woodland provides the ideal habitat of well decayed timber lying in water where the larvae feed on fungi.

The adjoining Glen of Sorrow also has a range of habitats rich in locally rare species. The slopes are dominated by grassland with a typical range of flower species. On the highest slopes occur the locally rare species stiff sedge, dark-leaved willow and three flowered rush.

The upwelling of water has created springs, short-sedge acid and base-rich flushes. The base-rich flushes support characteristic grassland communities with the local species grass of Parnassus, trembling grass and meadow oat grass. Small, sheltered gullies have the locally rare Wilson's filmy fern and several locally uncommon upland species. Old spoil from the copper mine supports the only known colony of field gentian in the district. Notable bird species include raven and golden plover.

The geology around Gloom Hill has provided critical evidence of the processes largely responsible for determining the geology of central Scotland. The geology is of volcanic origin with important features such as intrusions and fault lines.

Dollar Glen, being relatively undisturbed and offering protection from atmospheric pollution, provides a locally important habitat for lichen flora. A lichen survey was carried out in 1995 and the site is noteworthy for having 2 very uncommon species and another previously known only from south-west England and south Wales, as well as another 17 uncommon species.



Current condition of the natural features

All features except the newly defined upland ash woodland feature have been monitored since 2001. All monitored features were in favourable condition. The springs (including flushes) feature has been judged to have recovered and its status was re-assessed in 2007 and changed to favourable recovered. Heavy grazing and increasing bracken cover had previously been thought to be a problem.

Natural features of Dollar Glen SSSI ¹	Feature condition (date monitored)
Upland mixed ash woodland ¹	Not yet monitored.
Subalpine flushes ³	Favourable – Recovered – July 2007
Subalpine calcareous grassland	Favourable Maintained - July 2007
A beetle <i>Stenus glacialis</i> ²	Favourable Maintained – October 2004
Carboniferous – Permian Igneous	Favourable Maintained – February 2001

¹Acid grassland and upland oak woodland were previously monitored. The former is no longer considered to be a notified natural feature, and the latter is now included in the upland mixed ash woodland feature.

²Monitored as part of the beetle assemblage.

³In future the feature previously identified as Springs (including flushes) will be monitored as Subalpine flushes. This consists of short-sedge acidic fen, alkaline fen, and springhead, rill and flush. Each aspect of the feature will be monitored individually and the feature reported on as a whole.

Past and present management

The National Trust for Scotland owns the lower portion of Dollar Glen and public access is available on a series of footpaths. Information panels are present on the site and a leaflet has been produced. Particular attractions are the Burn of Sorrow and Longbridge Gorge which were previously traversed by a series of footbridges. Due to danger from falling rocks these paths were permanently closed. Part of the footpath has been re-opened and in 2007 a platform was created to view Windy Edge pass. The footpath network is maintained by the NTS, while a car park and interpretation is provided by Clackmannanshire Council Ranger Service. A second car park is located at the northern extremity of Castle Road, and is maintained by Historic Scotland.

Historic Scotland manages Castle Campbell which is adjacent to the site and is open to the public attracting thousands of visitors per annum. Many of these visitors arrive by walking up the paths through the lower part of the glen. There are exotic plant species present both in the grounds of Castle Campbell and in gardens in Dollar. In order to protect the integrity of the woodland habitat, it is important to monitor the occurrence of these exotics within the boundary of the SSSI, and to control them where necessary.

In 1997 the NTS fenced off the upper reaches of its woodland to protect it from grazing. At present the upper sections owned by NTS are dominated by bracken in the summer months.

Stock graze the upper reaches of the site and grazing at appropriate levels is necessary to maintain the structure and composition of the vegetation. Aerial bracken spraying has taken place on Saddle Hill on the boundary of the SSSI.

The Dollar Burn which flows through the glen was previously an emergency water supply for Dollar, but is no longer used for that purpose.

The site includes a geological component at Gloom Hill which is made up of two disused quarries. The geological interest – the dip of the quartz dolerite intrusion – is well exposed in the quarry walls. However the dumping of rubbish, large amounts of graffiti and encroaching trees all contribute towards obscuring the rock features. Any new tree planting should be kept at least 10 metres from the rock faces, and cleaning of the faces should be considered. Both quarries are easily reached from the road leading to Castle Campbell.

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

To maintain the biological and geological features of interest in Dollar Glen by ensuring habitat management is carried out as described below:

- **Woodland** - monitor the occurrence of invasive exotic species within the woodland and control where necessary
- **Grassland and flushes, including the beetle *Stenus glacialis*** – undertake grazing at appropriate levels to maintain the structure and composition of the calcareous grasslands, subalpine flushes and other upland habitats;
- **Geological** - ensure the geological interest remains intact and accessible. The interest could be enhanced by clearing rubbish from within 5m of the outcrop and sandblasting the faces to remove graffiti.

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

and the effectiveness of management.

Other factors affecting the natural features of the site

- Management of recreational access and visitor facilities within the gorge
- Management work of area around Castle Campbell.
- The cutting of trees within electricity wayleaves and impacts on woodland habitat.
- Aerial bracken spraying especially on the slopes of Saddle Hill.

Date last reviewed: 26 January 2011