

## CITATION

**GLEN BARISDALE  
SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST  
Highland (Skye and Lochalsh)**

Site code: 699

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: NG 870025

OS 1:50,000 SHEET NO: Landranger Series 33  
1:25,000 SHEET NO: Explorer Series 413

AREA: 1077.4 ha

### NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES:

<b>Biological</b>	<b>:</b>	<b>Woodland</b>	<b>Upland birch woodland</b>
	<b>:</b>	<b>Woodland</b>	<b>Native pinewood</b>
	<b>:</b>	<b>Non-vascular plants</b>	<b>Lichen assemblage</b>

### DESCRIPTION:

Glen Barisdale Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) lies at the eastern end of the Knoydart peninsula, in remote ground between Loch Hourn and Loch Quoich. It encompasses the Glen Barisdale pinewood, an example of a Western oceanic native pinewood which supports an epiphytic lichen flora of national importance, and adjacent birchwood *Betula spp.*

Glen Barisdale pinewood is the most extensive remnant of a large wood which in the past spread over both Barisdale and the slopes above Loch Hourn. Most of the site comprises a fairly open Scots pine wood with birch over a sparse understorey of old, tall juniper *Juniperus communis* with scattered holly and rowan. Much of the pine is 150 - 200 years old and heavy grazing has prevented regeneration over many decades, except on protected rock faces. Upslope of the pine lies a zone of acid birch woodland.

The pinewood supports the best known example of a pinewood epiphytic lichen flora assemblage of the Western oceanic type. The climate allows the existence of species for which the northern limits had previously been thought to be in South West Ireland. Notable components of the assemblage include the following species: *Cavernularia hultenii*, *Graphina ruiziana* and *Pyrenula dertmatoides*.

### NOTIFICATION HISTORY:

First notified under the 1949 Act: 1977

Re-notified under the 1981 Act: 20 July 1984

Notification reviewed under the 2004 Act: 30 September 2008

### REMARKS:

Measured area of site corrected (from 1093.9 ha)