

CITATION

**GLEN BEASDALE
SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST
Highland (Lochaber)**

Site code: 700

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: NM 720846

OS 1:50,000 SHEET NO: Landranger Series 40
1:25,000 SHEET NO: Explorer Series 398

AREA: 546.37 hectares

NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES:

Biological : Woodlands : Upland oak woodland

DESCRIPTION:

Glen Beasdale SSSI is located along the north shore of Loch nan Uamh between Arisaig and Lochailort and is one of the largest oakwoods in Lochaber. It supports one of the best Scottish examples of sheltered, semi-natural, west coast oak woodland, the majority being of ancient origin.

The site consists of typical coastal oakwood with a heath ground layer. Rowan and alder are common in the understorey and birch is widespread at higher levels and in more open areas. The ground flora is typical of this woodland type, the dominant species being heather and purple moor-grass with numerous ferns and moss carpets. The moss and liverwort flora is rich and contains several species with an Atlantic distribution. A diverse lichen flora is also present. On ridges and rocky knolls a mosaic of birch scrub and heath has developed. There are many streams, flushes, lochans and boggy areas within the wood which add to the diversity of the site and in which the predominant tree species, alder, is found with an associated wetland flora. The site supports typical woodland bird and animal populations.

NOTIFICATION HISTORY

First notified under the 1949 Act: 1964, 1981
Re-notified under the 1981 Act: 29 September 1986 with amended boundary
Notification reviewed under the 2004 Act: 28 March 2008
Extension notified under the 2004 Act: 12 September 2016 covering 40.81 ha.
Extension confirmed under the 2004 Act: 22 August 2017 with amended text.

REMARKS

Glen Beasdale SSSI is also designated as Glen Beasdale Special Area of Conservation (SAC) for the European habitats and species listed below.

Habitats : Western acidic oak woodland
Species : Freshwater pearl mussel *Margaritifera margaritifera*
: Otter *Lutra lutra*