



Scottish Natural Heritage

**GLEN FENDER MEADOWS**  
**Site of Special Scientific Interest**

**SITE MANAGEMENT STATEMENT**

Site code: 708

**Battleby,  
Redgorton,  
Perth  
PH1 3EW**

**Tel: 01738 444177  
Email:  
Tayside\_clackmannanshire  
@snh.gov.uk**

**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**

Glen Fender Meadows SSSI lies 2km north-east of Blair Atholl. This site is notified as an SSSI for its calcium-rich spring-fed fens (the site overlies schists and limestone), heathland and calcareous grassland, and its vascular plant assemblage which includes brown bog-rush and false sedge.

Glen Fender Meadows SSSI is bisected by the Fender Burn; on the north side is a steep but narrow bank, the majority of the site lies to the south of the burn, this is a sloping undulating area with morainic knolls and some rock outcrops. The fens have formed in many of the hollows, especially to the east of the site. The site is particularly rich in species because of the complex mosaic of different habitats across the site, which in addition to the specifically notified habitats includes birch woodland, regenerating birch scrub, neutral grassland along the Fender Burn, and various types of wetland, especially in the eastern part of the site.

The SSSI also contains seven species of notable moths and butterflies (including a very rare moth *Ancylis tineana*), and two rare snails.

Parts of Glen Fender Meadows SSSI, along with Tulach Hill SSSI are considered of international importance and have been designated under the EU Habitats Directive as Tulach Hill and Glen Fender Meadows Special Area of Conservation (SAC) for alkaline fens, *Vertigo genesii* and *Vertigo geyeri* (two rare snails), European dry heaths, semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates and limestone pavements (the latter two features are not found on Glen Fender Meadows.)

The SSSI lies adjacent to the Beinn a' Ghlo SSSI and SAC, and also Loch Moraig SSSI.



### Current condition of the natural features

#### Spring-fed fens

The spring-fed fens feature was monitored as part of SNH's programme of Site Condition Monitoring in 2004. The feature was found to be in unfavourable condition, due to the presence of scrub within the SSSI. At the time of monitoring the scrub had not yet begun to encroach upon the feature.

#### Vascular plant assemblage

The vascular plant assemblage feature was monitored in 2002. The four species monitored were hair sedge *Carex capillaris*, northern green rush *Juncus alpinoarticulatus*, simple bog sedge *Kobresia simpliciuscula* and brown bog-rush *Schoenus ferrugineus*. All the species were found to be in favourable condition, with good signs of regeneration.

#### Lowland dry heath

The heathland feature was monitored in 2002, and was found to be in favourable condition, although due to the SSSI's north-west facing location it is very exposed, and the heathland tends to be wind-pruned and therefore shorter than would usually be expected.

#### Lowland calcareous grassland

The lowland calcareous grassland was monitored in 2002. Although the feature was found to be in favourable condition, some areas were found to be slightly too tall, which was allowing the spread of some undesirable species.

Natural features of Glen Fender Meadows SSSI	Feature condition (date monitored)	Other relevant designations
Springs (including flushes)	Unfavourable, declining – 2 September 2004	SAC
Lowland dry heath	Favourable, maintained – 2 August 2002	SAC
Lowland calcareous grassland	Favourable, maintained – 2 August 2002	SAC
Vascular plant assemblage	Favourable, maintained - 31 July 2002	

Features of overlapping Natura sites that are not notified as SSSI natural features	Feature condition (date monitored)	Designation (SAC or SPA)
Round-mouthed whorl snail <i>Vertigo genesii</i>	Favourable, maintained – 2 September 2004	SAC
Geyer's whorl snail <i>Vertigo geyeri</i>	Favourable, maintained – 2 September 2004	SAC

## **Past and present management**

The two major management units south of the Fender Burn are now in assured management, one in SNH's East Scotland Grassland Management Scheme and the other in a Rural Development Contract (RDC). Under the terms of the management schemes the scrub, which was identified as an issue during the monitoring of the SSSI, is being controlled. The schemes allow for a change in the grazing regime, which is hoped will prevent the spread of birch into the protected features. One of the management units on the north side of the burn is now in a RDC.

Most of the SSSI is grazed by sheep and cattle. The two areas of coniferous woodland in the centre of the site provide shelter for livestock and are also managed for timber production.

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

### **To ensure that the protected features are maintained in their current condition:**

1. The grazing regime is maintained and monitored to ensure that the floristic diversity of the site does not decline.
2. The scrub should be controlled to ensure that it does not encroach upon the protected 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 and to monitor the effectiveness of the management agreements.

The EU Habitats and Birds Directives oblige Government to avoid, in SACs, the deterioration of natural habitats and the habitats of species, as well as disturbance of the species for which the areas have been designated, in so far as such disturbance could be significant in relation to the objectives of these Directives. The objectives above have been assessed against these requirements. All authorities proposing to carry out or permit to be carried out operations likely to have a significant effect on the European interests of this SSSI must assess those operations against the relevant Natura conservation objectives (which are listed on our website through the SNHi - SiteLink facility).

Date last reviewed: 28 July 2009