



**Scottish Natural Heritage**  
**Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba**  
 All of nature for all of Scotland  
 Nàdair air fad airson Alba air fad

**GLEN LOCHAY WOODS**  
**Site of Special Scientific Interest**

**SITE MANAGEMENT STATEMENT**

**Site code: 712**

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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 a 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.

<b>Natural features of Glen Lochay Woods SSSI</b>	<b>Condition of feature (date monitored)</b>
Upland birch woodland	Not yet monitored
Upland oak woodland	Unfavourable, no change (November 2001)
Wet woodland	Not yet monitored
Upland mixed ash woodland	Not yet monitored
Invertebrate assemblage *previously monitored as Flies	Favourable, maintained (July 2003)

<b>Features of overlapping Natura sites that are not notified as SSSI natural features</b>	<b>Condition of feature (date monitored)</b>	<b>Designation (SAC or SPA)</b>
Clear-water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation and poor to moderate nutrient levels	Favourable, maintained (September 2004)	SAC
Atlantic salmon, <i>Salmo salar</i>	Favourable, maintained (October 2004)	SAC
Brook Lamprey, <i>Lampetra planeri</i>	Favourable, maintained (November 2007)	SAC
River Lamprey, <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>	Favourable, maintained (November 2007)	SAC
Sea Lamprey, <i>Petromyzon marinus</i>	Favourable, maintained (November 2007)	SAC
Otter, <i>Lutra lutra</i>	Favourable, maintained (April 2004)	SAC

**Description of the site**

Glen Lochay Woods SSSI is an ancient woodland located on the slopes of Glen Lochay, approximately 5 km west of Loch Tay. The woodland covers an area over two hundred

hectares, making it one of the largest woodlands within the Stirling district. In addition to its size Glen Lochay wood has a wide range of woodland types and associated habitats which support a rich diversity of invertebrates.



The main canopy species within the SSSI is downy birch particularly on the upper slopes. Some ancient oak woodland occurs along the river on the deeper soils, while pockets of hazel woodland grow on steeper slopes by watercourses where the soils are locally enriched; wet woodland communities can be found alongside burns and in wet flushes. An unusual feature of the site is the transition to willow scrub between the “high forest” woodland and the heath/grassland area on the upper edge of the SSSI. Associated with the woodland are a number of other habitats including river, heathland and grassland which contributes to the considerable diversity of plant and invertebrate species at this site.

The rich invertebrate fauna of Glen Lochay Woods includes one Biodiversity Action Plan priority species and three Red Data Book species. The site also supports several ancient woodland indicator beetle species which highlight the long established nature of woodland. Another interesting invertebrate species present within the SSSI is the large colonies of hummock-forming yellow ant *Lasius flavus*.

Glen Lochay Woods SSSI also overlaps the River Tay Special Area of Conservation (SAC) notified for Clear-water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation and poor to moderate nutrient levels, Atlantic salmon, Brook Lamprey, River Lamprey, Sea Lamprey and Otter.

The most recent site condition monitoring carried out in 2003 assessed the “Flies” feature of the site and found these to be in favourable condition.

The woodland (Upland oak woodland feature), last monitored in 2001 was found to be in unfavourable condition. The woodland failed the targets for age structure, successful regeneration, woodland layers and browsing impact. Many of the stands of oak, alder and birch were found to be of very even aged and there was a poorly developed shrub layer. The impacts of browsing were evident throughout the site and few signs of successful regeneration, such as tree saplings reaching 1.5m, were found. Where deer and sheep have been excluded from the woodland it was found to be in an improved condition.

Picture 1. Showing regeneration within enclosure	Picture 2. Showing deer droppings outwith enclosure
	

## Past and present management

Little is known about the past management of Glen Lochay woods but it is likely to have been used for grazing, shelter and as a source of wood for domestic use.

Currently the SSSI is part of a much larger un-enclosed sheep grazing unit. Deer also graze within the wood and stalking is a key management activity. The northern section of the SSSI is subject to a management agreement with SNH and has been excluded from stock and deer grazing since 1991. A further part of the wood has been fenced as part of an ESA scheme. Natural regeneration of trees and shrubs is now evident within these exclosures. In the majority of the site however, natural regeneration is held in check by the current grazing regime.

At present SNH and Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) are working with owners of the SSSI to address the grazing issues on site. An application to the Rural Priorities Scheme has been submitted with the aim of encouraging woodland regeneration, by erecting fencing to exclude sheep and deer as part of a long term phased woodland recovery. If the application is successful fence construction is expected to begin in 2011.

### **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 and to monitor the effectiveness of the management agreement.

The EU Habitats and Birds Directives oblige Government to avoid, in SACs and SPAs, the deterioration of natural habitats and the habitats of species, as well as disturbance of the species for which the areas have been designated, where such disturbance could be significant in relation to the objectives of these Directives. The objectives below 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).

#### **1. To enhance the woodland habitat and bring the site into favourable condition.**

For the woodland features of Glen Lochay Woods SSSI to come into favourable condition a reduction in grazing pressure is necessary to enable woodland regeneration. The Rural Priorities Scheme application sets out a feasible methodology to help achieve this outcome and proposes a phased woodland recovery, with two large sections of the woodland initially being fenced to exclude stock and deer. After these woodland compartments have recovered sufficiently, long term rotational fencing is planned to allow recovery of the woodland as a whole. If successful the ongoing phased management of the area should, in time allow Glen Lochay Woods SSSI to come into favourable condition. In the event that the application is not successful SNH and FCS will continue to work with the owners of the SSSI to develop the proposal further, ready for submission to the next round of applications.

#### **2. To maintain the woodland habitat in a favourable condition for invertebrates.**

Encourage woodland regeneration and maintain a good age structure within the woodland to ensure a continued supply of aging tree species and dead wood which provide important habitat for invertebrates. Any fallen or standing deadwood should be left in place where it is safe to do so. The riverine and wetland habitats should also be allowed to develop naturally and maintained free of draining.

Date last reviewed: 16 December 2010