

CITATION

GLEN NANT
SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST
Argyll and Bute

Site code: 717

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: NN 010 281

OS 1:50,000 SHEET NO: Landranger Series 49, 50
1:25,000 SHEET NO: Explorer Series 360

AREA: 502.08 hectares

NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES

Biological: Woodlands	: Upland oak woodland
: Non-vascular plants	: Bryophyte assemblage
	: Lichen assemblage
: Invertebrates	: Cranefly (<i>Tipula luridorostris</i>)

DESCRIPTION

Glen Nant Site of Special Scientific Interest extends from just south of Taynuilt along the River Nant to its source, Loch Nant. The majority of the site lies to the west of River Nant. There is, however, also a narrow strip to the east of this natural divide which runs the entire length of the site.

The site encompasses a substantial area of native broad-leaved woodland. Upland oak woodland forms a considerable proportion of this woodland habitat mosaic. The woodland provides ideal conditions to support rich communities of lower plants (lichen and bryophyte assemblages). The woodland's bryophyte assemblage provides a suitable habitat for a nationally-rare species of crane fly (*Tipula luridorostris*).

The site represents one of the largest extents of upland oak woodland in the Lorn area. However, the underlying geology results in a variation of soils which in turn support a patchwork of woodland ranging from ash-hazel woodland on calcareous volcanic rocks to oak and birch woodland on the more acid soils. Other woody species include wych elm, gean and holly, with alder and willows on less steep areas. This diversity of the woodland is reflected in the diverse ground vegetation with fern-dominated communities and heath on the higher slopes of acid oak-birch woodland and an abundance of herbs on the calcareous soils. The diverse mix of woodland types provides a suitable environment to support outstanding and varied assemblages of internationally important Atlantic bryophytes and lichens.

The site has recently been estimated to support at least 240 species of bryophyte (155 mosses, 85 liverworts), more than 25% of the Scottish bryophyte flora. Of this total 11 are nationally-scarce species and 35 are oceanic species. It is this

exceptional assemblage of oceanic species that is the main bryophyte interest on the site, particularly the excellent epiphytic flora found on hazel. The base-rich nature of some areas gives an added interest both in the extent of communities that are base-demanding and also in providing the basis for the large populations of both *Plagiochila bifaria* and *Plagiochila exigua*.

Glen Nant is amongst the most important lichen sites in the Lorn area. The site supports many nationally and internationally-significant lichen species, the majority of which are from three notable communities; *Lobarion pulmonariae*, *Graphidion scriptae* and *Parmelietum laevigatae*. Between 1976 and 2006 the sites rich oceanic lichen flora has been recorded to include no less than two vulnerable species, ten near-threatened species, nine nationally-rare species and 53 nationally-scarce species.

The varied nature of the vegetation on the site supports rich and diverse communities of woodland invertebrates. A notified feature of the site is the rare crane fly *Tipula luridorostris*, the larvae of which lives in moss found on trees in western oak woods where rainfall is relatively high. Glen Nant is one of only three sites from which *Tipula luridorostris* has been recorded in Great Britain since 1970. Additionally, the site provides suitable conditions to support a wide range of fly species including 2 nationally-scarce species, *Tetanocera phyllophora* and *Botanophila maculipes*, which were recorded at the site in 2003.

Although not a notified feature of the site there is a strong population of the nationally-scarce wood ant *Formica aquilonia*.

NOTIFICATION HISTORY

First notified under the 1949 Act: 1962 and 1974 as Glen Nant Forest Nature Reserve

Re-notified under the 1981 Act: 26 August 1988 with a 22 ha increase in area

Re-notified under the 1981 Act: 06 May 2003 with a 210 ha increase in area

Notification reviewed under the 2004 Act: 09 December 2010

REMARKS

Measured area of site corrected (from 501 ha)

Glen Nant SSSI is part of the Loch Etive Woods Special Area of Conservation (SAC), which is designated for the European habitats and species listed below.

Habitats : Alder woodland on floodplains
: Mixed woodland on base-rich soils associated with rocky slopes
: Western acidic oak woodland

Species : Otter (*Lutra lutra*)