

**CITATION****GLEN TARFF  
SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST  
Highland (Inverness)**

Site code: 725

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: NH 387045

OS 1:50,000 SHEET NO: Landranger Series 34  
1:25,000 SHEET NO: Explorer Series 401

AREA: 272.58 hectares

**NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES****Biological: Woodlands: Upland mixed ash woodland**  
**Biological: Invertebrates: Beetle *Bolitophagus reticulatus*****DESCRIPTION**

Glen Tarff SSSI is situated just south of Fort Augustus, on the southern tip of Loch Ness. It is the largest in a series of gorge woodlands in the Inverness District and runs for approximately 7.5 km from Corrieyairack Hill north to Loch Ness, into which the River Tarff flows. It is notified for its variety of woodland types and a rare beetle.

The variable conditions of soil, slope and aspect has led to the development of different types of woodland, with sessile oak and birch on the sides of the gorge and ash, wych elm and alder lower down. The wood is notable for a well-developed under-storey of hazel, bird cherry, holly and goat willow.

The site shows both oceanic and continental climatic influences and the woodland habitats reflect this. They are particularly rich in mosses and ferns, including the mountain fern *Oreopteris limbosperma*, and scaly male-fern *Dryopteris affinis*. There are also locally important plants such as wood crane's-bill *Geranium sylvaticum* and the grasses mountain melick *Melica nutans* and wood fescue *Festuca altissima*.

The site is also important for the rare beetle, *Bolitophagus reticulatus*, which in the UK is found only in the Highlands of Scotland. The beetle larvae feed on bracket fungus in old birchwoods

**NOTIFICATION HISTORY**

First notified under the 1949 Act: 1975

Re-notified under the 1981 Act: 12 April 1984 with a c400ha decrease in area.

Notification reviewed under the 2004 Act: 9 December 2009

## REMARKS

Measured area of site corrected from 311.1 ha.

Glen Tarff SSSI is part of Ness Woods Special Area of Conservation (SAC) designated for the European habitats and species listed below:

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

Species:     Otter *Lutra lutra*