

CITATION

GLENDARUEL WOOD AND CRAGS SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST

Argyll and Bute

Site code: 733

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: NS 022892
NS 018899

OS 1:50,000 SHEET NO: Landranger Series: 55
1:25,000 SHEET NO: Explorer Series: 362

AREA: 80.74 hectares

NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES

Biological:	Woodlands:	Upland oak woodland
	Upland habitat:	Rocky slopes (includes inland cliff, rocky outcrops, chasmophytic vegetation)

DESCRIPTION

Glendaruel Wood and Craggs Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) is a two-part site comprising an area of ancient woodland on the lower valley side and a rocky outcrop below the summits of Creachan Mor and Creachan Beag. The site lies approximately 4 kilometres north-east of the Clachan of Glendaruel on the Cowal peninsula of Argyll.

Within the woodland part of the site, the varied drainage and topography has resulted in a number of different woodland types developing here. Oak, ash and hazel woodland occurs on the drier slopes whilst alder and ash dominate the wetter slopes and valley bottom. A willow-dominated area occurs on the valley floor at the north end of the site. This willow woodland type is unusual in Argyll and is the largest known example in Cowal.

The woodland supports rich assemblages of herbs, ferns, mosses and liverworts, many species of which are uncommon in Argyll.

The crags are comprised predominantly of serpentine, an unusual rock that is rich in elements such as magnesium and nickel and low in ones such as calcium and phosphorous. Bands of calcareous dolomite run through the serpentine and the soil derived from this combination of rock types supports unique assemblages of alpine cliff ledge plants, below which herb-rich grassland and woodland have developed.

NOTIFICATION HISTORY

First notified under the 1949 Act: 1971

Re-notified under the 1981 Act: 23 August 1985 with a 94.3 ha decrease in area

Notification reviewed under the 2004 Act: 25 March 2010

REMARKS

Measured area of site corrected (from 78.1ha)