

CITATION

HAMILTON HIGH PARKS SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST South Lanarkshire

Site code: 760

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: NS 728536, NS 733532, NS 734538

OS 1:50,000 SHEET NO: Landranger Series 64
1:25,000 SHEET NO: Explorer Series 343

AREA: 30.77 hectares

NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES

Biological: Woodlands: Upland mixed ash woodland

Biological: Woodlands: Wood pasture and parkland

Biological: Invertebrates: Beetle assemblage

DESCRIPTION

Hamilton High Parks Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), lying immediately south-east of Hamilton comprises an area of ash-elm gorge woodland and two separate areas of parkland oaks. The parkland pasture supports a rich beetle assemblage, especially for saproxylic species living in dead wood and in fungi growing on dead wood.

The area of gorge woodland below Cadzow Castle, which is considered ancient in origin, is dominated mainly by ash and elm, with areas of oak, birch and alder also present. The principal botanical interest of this steep-sided gorge woodland is centred upon the variety of woodland plant communities which have developed on soil types ranging from base-rich through to acid.

The parkland oaks, *Quercus robur*, known as the Cadzow oaks, are over 400 years old and are possibly the best example of oak woodland with pasture in Scotland. The parkland pasture supports a rich beetle assemblage that includes a number of Nationally Scarce species such as the hairy fungus beetle *Mycetophagus populi*, which is unknown elsewhere in Scotland, and *Mycetophagus piceus*. Two species, *Ptenidium gressneri* and the cobweb beetle *Ctesias serra*, are believed to occur at only one other Scottish locality. Other Nationally Scarce beetles present include the rove beetle *Phyllodrepoidea crenata*, the pelted beetle *Thymalus limbatus* and the cerylonid beetle *Cerylon fagi*.

NOTIFICATION HISTORY

First notified under the 1949 Act: 1952, 1971

Re-notified under the 1981 Act: 21 December 1984 with a 45ha decrease in area

Notification reviewed under the 2004 Act: 7 July 2010

REMARKS

Measured area of site corrected from 31.35 hectares.

8.3ha of Hamilton High Parks SSSI is designated as part of the Clyde Valley Woods Special Area of Conservation (SAC) for the European habitat listed below:

Habitat: Mixed woodland on base-rich soils associated with rocky slopes.