

CITATION

KILLIEGOWAN WOOD
SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST
Dumfries and Galloway

Site code: 847

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: NX 584572

OS 1:50,000 SHEET NO: Landranger Series 83
1:25,000 SHEET NO: Explorer Series 312

AREA: 55.16 hectares

NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES

Biological: Woodlands: Upland oak woodland

DESCRIPTION

Killiegowan Wood is situated 1km northwest of Gatehouse of Fleet. It forms part of a complex of wooded sites in the Fleet Valley and contains one of the best remaining areas of rich, mixed deciduous woodland in Dumfries and Galloway.

Killiegowan Wood is topographically varied and supports a mosaic of woodland communities dominated by oak *Quercus sp.* Well-drained acid soils support stands of derelict oak-birch *Quercus sp.-Betula pubescens* coppice. Ash and hazel dominate the mineral-rich soils found at the foot of slopes, whilst alder, ash and wych elm *Ulmus glabra* dominate enriched damp valleys.

Small areas of moss carpet *Sphagnum spp.* form mires under birch-willow *Betula pubescens-Salix spp.* stands and areas of blackthorn *Prunus spinosa* thicket are found where the tree canopy is thinned. The ground flora is equally varied and is locally notable for its fine display of bluebells, *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*.

The site supports a breeding bird community commonly associated with upland oak woodland including green woodpecker, redstart, woodcock and wood warbler.

NOTIFICATION HISTORY

First notified under the National Parks & Access to the Countryside Act 1949: 1974 as part of Killiegowan Wood and Ardwall Hill SSSI.

Re-notified under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981: 23 August 1985 as a separate site, Killiegowan Wood SSSI.

Notification reviewed under the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004: 16 December 2008.

REMARKS

Measured area of site corrected (from 55.6 ha).

The southwest boundary of this site is coincident with part of Ardwall Hill SSSI.

Killiegowan Wood SSSI is designated as part of the Galloway Oakwoods Special Area of Conservation (SAC) for the European habitats listed below.

Habitats: Western acidic oak woodland