

CITATION

**GLEN CRERAN WOODS
SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST**
Argyll and Bute

Site code: 8619

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: NN 011465
 NN 041497
 NN 009467
 NM 985438
 NM 968431

OS 1:50,000 SHEET NO: Landranger Series 41, 49, 50
1:25,000 SHEET NO: Explorer Series 376, 384

AREA: 703.88 hectares

NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES

Biological: Woodlands	: Upland Oak Woodland
: Non-vascular plants	: Bryophyte Assemblage
	: Lichen Assemblage
: Butterflies	: Chequered Skipper (<i>Carterocephalus palaemon</i>)
	: Pearl Bordered Fritillary (<i>Boloria euphrosyne</i>)

DESCRIPTION

Glen Creran Woods Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) is divided into five separate areas situated in the vicinity of Glen Creran, Argyll. The notified features of the site are upland oak woodland, bryophyte assemblages, lichen assemblages, chequered skipper butterfly and pearl bordered fritillary butterfly.

Glen Creran Woods comprises large areas of remnant native broad-leaved woodland on the northern and southern slopes of Glen Creran. The site has some of the most extensive areas of native woodland in the Lorn and North Argyll area. The notified woodland feature of upland oak woodland, characterised by a predominance of oak and birch in the canopy, with varying amounts of holly, rowan and hazel as the main understorey species, forms a significant component of this native woodland habitat mosaic. The woodland features many glades and open areas which are extremely important for maintaining the sites rich biological diversity.

The woodland is of outstanding importance for its rich assemblages of bryophytes and lichens, both of which have been notified as features of the site. The site supports at least 219 species of bryophyte, including 10 nationally-scarce species (*Bartramia hallerana*, *Cynodontium jenneri*, *Ulota calvescens*, *Sematophyllum*

micans, *Anastrophyllum hellerianum*, *Jamesoniella autumnalis*, *Leptoscyphus cuneifolius*, *Lophozia longidens*, *Plagiochila heterophylla*, *Tritomaria exsecta*) and 35 western oceanic species.

The site is outstanding, on a national and international scale, for its exceptionally rich oceanic lichen assemblage which includes numerous species from the notable communities *Lobarion pulmonariae*, *Graphidion scriptae* and *Parmelietum laevigatae*, including 4 globally vulnerable species, 19 globally near-threatened species, 10 nationally rare species and 66 nationally scarce species.

The site is exceptional for its rich butterfly assemblage which includes at least three nationally-scarce species. The populations of two of these, chequered skipper and pearl-bordered fritillary, are amongst the most important in the Lorn and North Argyll area.

NOTIFICATION HISTORY

First notified under the 1949 Act: 1963 (as Glasdrum SSSI)

Re-notified under the 1981 Act: 16 May 2003 with a 265.91 ha increase in area.

Notification reviewed under the 2004 Act: 12 August 2010

REMARKS

17 hectares of the site were established as Glasdrum Wood National Nature Reserve in 1967, with the addition of a further 152 hectares in 1977.

Measured area of site corrected (from 714.31 ha)

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

Habitats : Mixed woodland on base-rich soils associated with rocky slopes
 : Western acidic oak woodland
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Species : Otter *Lutra lutra*