



Scottish Natural Heritage
Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba

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GLEN FALLOCH PINWOOD Site of Special Scientific Interest

SITE MANAGEMENT STATEMENT

Site code: 706

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Purpose



This is a public statement prepared by SNH for owners and occupiers of the SSSI. It outlines the reasons it is designated as an SSSI and provides guidance on how its special natural features should be conserved or enhanced. This Statement does not affect or form part of the statutory notification and does not remove the need to apply for consent for operations requiring consent.

We welcome your views on this Statement.

Natural features of Glen Falloch Pinewood SSSI	Condition of feature (date monitored)
Native pinewood	Unfavourable, recovering (March 2008)

Description of the site

Glen Falloch Pinewood is the most southerly remnant of the ancient Caledonian Pinewood which once covered a large part of the Scottish Highlands and is now restricted to just over 1% of its former area. The SSSI is one of only two remaining ancient pinewoods in the Stirling district.

Glen Falloch Pinewood SSSI is situated on the north-west facing slopes above the River Falloch, approximately 3km south-west of Crianlarich. The native Scots pine are restricted to the drier knolls and have associated plant communities dominated by Ling, Deer grass or nutrient-poor grassland communities. Surrounding the knolls are extensive areas of blanket mire and nutrient-poor groundwater flushes dominated by Bog Myrtle, Purple Moor-grass and Sharp-flowered Rush.

Pollen analysis from this site indicates that the pinewood is unusual in that it was established about 4,300 years ago, at a time when this type of woodland was generally receding throughout Western Scotland. Survey work has shown that a sample of 12 Glen Falloch trees had ages in the range 160 - 400 years old.

The most recent site condition monitoring carried out at Glen Falloch Pinewood in 2008 found the woodland to be in unfavourable, recovering condition. The SSSI did not meet the target for age structure as the pinewood consists mainly of scattered mature pine trees and abundant saplings but has low levels of immature trees. The target for canopy cover also failed due to the scattered nature of the wood. The pinewood also

failed the target for deadwood due to the lack of larger trees which provide dead limbs or fallen trees. All of these targets are being addressed by the site management and so are expected to improve with time.

Picture 1 showing regeneration within enclosure	Picture 2 showing regeneration within enclosure
	

Past and present management

A combination of grazing and past felling has resulted in the present remnant pinewood. The land has also been muirburnt, to improve the habitat as a grouse-moor or to provide 'fresh bite' for sheep and evidence of moor gripping also exists above and below the woodland.

Currently Glen Falloch Pinewood supports extensive sheep and cattle grazing. The area is also managed as deer forest. Between them, these grazing animals have prevented any natural regeneration. Therefore in 1982 a small, one hectare, experimental enclosure was constructed and planted with pine and alder seedlings, which proved very successful. In 1993 Glen Falloch Estate commenced a management agreement with SNH which resulted in two larger deer and stock-proof enclosures. These were planted with pine seedling of Glen Falloch pine provenance and with native broadleaf trees like aspen, holly and juniper. Within these newer enclosures, there has been a rapid recovery of ling and blaeberry, broadleaves are doing well, the planted pines seem to be thriving and there is regeneration under some, but not all, of the mature pine trees. Cuttings have also been taken from the remaining pines to preserve genetic material.

Objectives for Management (and key factors influencing the condition of natural features)

We wish to work with the owners and occupiers to protect the site and to maintain and where necessary enhance its features of special interest. SNH aims to carry out site survey, monitoring and research as appropriate, to increase our knowledge and understanding of the site and its natural features and to monitor the effectiveness of the management agreement.

1. Improve the pinewood habitat and encourage the restoration of a healthy,

naturally regenerating pinewood.

Continue to monitor the woodland habitat and maintain the enclosure fences to prevent grazing damage. Ensure high deer numbers are not causing over-grazing in unenclosed parts of the site and promptly remove any grazing animals which get into the exclosures. Where it is safe to do so leave any dead or decaying wood. Bracken should be monitored and controlled where necessary and non native Sitka spruce, if identified, should be removed from the site. Consider additional pine planting in future years to improve the age structure and canopy cover of the wood and also consider disturbing ground around mature pines to encourage germination of pines seeds.

Other factors affecting the natural features of the site

In some years caterpillars have severely damaged young trees. Therefore the pinewood should also be monitored for signs of caterpillar damage. This site is also within the Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park and is adjacent to the West Highland Way.

Date last reviewed: 11 December 2009