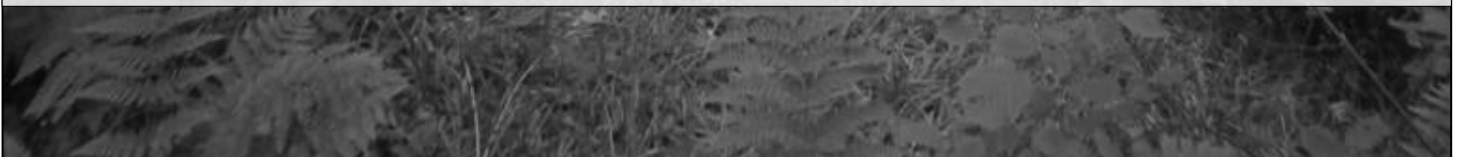




OAK/HAZEL WOODLANDS ON THE ISLE OF MAN

Addendum: Inventory of New Sites 2011-2015 -

Wildflowers of Mann Project 2015



Oak/Hazel Woodlands of the Isle of Man

Addendum: Inventory of New Sites 2011-2015

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Wildflowers of Mann

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Manx Wildlife Trust

The oak/hazel inventory of 2011 contained 30 sites that were likely to be ancient in origin, thus containing species or collections of species associated with ancient woodlands.

Since the publication of this inventory, new sites have come to light, thus should be included in the inventory. 10 new sites totalling nearly 9 ha are included.

The sites are on average smaller and generally of less ecological significance than those from the first inventory but some are still important.

Their significance can be summarised below:

- Foxdale Valley, Arwin-ny-Darragh, Shoughlaige-e-Cain, Earykellue and Cooldarry are all of low significance and not significantly more interesting than the secondary woodland that surrounds them.
- Fern Glen is really a part of the Brookdale woodland complex and increases the ecological interest of what is already one of the most important Manx woodlands.
- Injebreck is the highest native woodland on the Island putting ancient woodland over 100m higher than any of those found in the first inventory.
- Skincoe Brooghs are an important area of coastal cliff woodland and deserve further ecological study.
- At Tholt-y-Will, fragments of ancient woodland give clues to the ecological interest of the upper Sulby Valley, including the only significantly inland record of hay-scented buckler-fern.
- The upper Crogga River site is particularly species rich and when looked at in context of the lower Crogga hazel woodland, Bushy's Glen and Port Soderick Glen together it makes the Crogga River nearly as significant as the Groudle River as an example of species-rich mixed lowland woodland.

The sites are:

- Arwin-ny-Darragh
- Cooldarry
- Earykellue
- Fern Glen
- Foxdale Valley
- Injebreck
- Shoughlaige-e-Cain
- Skincoe Brooghs
- Tholt-y-Will
- Upper Crogga

Arwin Ny Darragh

A small area of hazel and mixed woodland. Hairy woodrush occurs in small quantities.

The site is a species rich node in long stretch of riverside woodland. Some of this woodland has not been well explored and so there may well be more oak or hazel nodes in the site, indeed the name Darragh mean oak in Gallic and so would imply the species may well be found.

Location:

West Balwin
(SC340822).

Size:

0.64 ha

Altitude:

173m

Ownership:

Private

Species Count:

NA

Gallery:

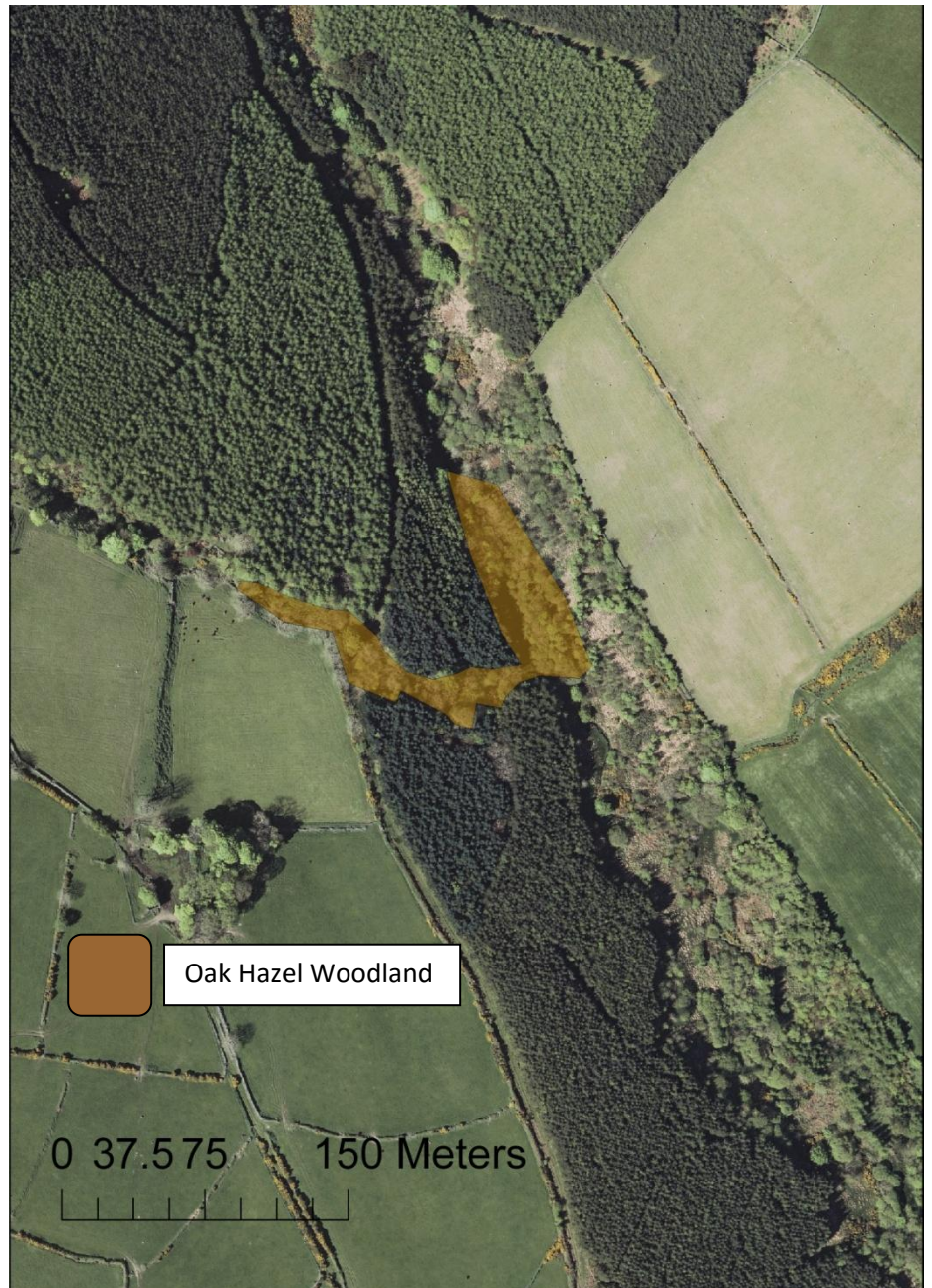
NA

Map:

Key Species

Hairy Woodrush (*Luzula pilosa*)

Hazel (*Corylus avellana*)



Cooildarry

A small grove of hazel bushes on a steep bank above the Cooildarry river. The area by the hazel is not particularly species rich, but Cooildarry is a notably species-rich wooded valley with species such as wood horsetail and greater horsetail. Some hazel also occur downstream in the Manx Wildlife Trust reserve.

Location:

Sulby Glen
(SC319887).

Size:

0.01 ha

Altitude:

81m

Ownership:

Private

Species Count:

NA

Gallery:

NA

Map:

Key Species

Hazel (*Corylus avellana*)



Earykellue

A small ravine above and within Ballacuberaigh Plantation.

The site is well stocked with oak, but these appear to be fairly even aged and the suspicion is that the site is planted, despite the presence of smooth-stalked sedge

This site is included in the inventory but caution should be made to its significance. It is however more species-rich than the native woodland along the streamsides of Ballacuberaigh Plantation downstream.

Location:

Sulby Glen
(SC3721924).

Size:

0.94 ha

Altitude:

183m

Ownership:

Private/IOM Government

Species Count:

NA

Gallery:

NA

Map:

Key Species

Oak (*Quercus x rosacea*)

Smooth Stalked Sedge (*Carex laevigata*)



Fern Glen

A section of deep ravine mixed woodland. Fern Glen is an adjacent ravine to the important ancient woodland of Brookdale but its more base rich soils mean that it is ash (rather than oak) dominated and generally more species rich. It does not appear to have the rare species associated with Brookdale however.

A few oak occur at the top of the Glen. Sanicle is abundant in many parts and the mapped area reflects the distribution of sanicle rather than oak. Sanicle occurs to nearly 180m which is probably its highest site on the Island.

The stream is for much of its length in a deeply incised ravine and can only be explored intermittently.

The glen and its surrounds are lightly grazed by sheep.

The area between Fern Glen and Brookdale is mostly gorse, bracken and heathland and is rapidly becoming colonized by trees and shrubs which could form a large (50+ha) semi-natural woodland over time.

Location:

Glen Auldyn
(SC440923).

Size:

1.7 ha

Altitude:

128-182m

Ownership:

Private

Species Count:

NA

Gallery:

NA

Map:



Key Species

Hairy Woodrush (*Luzula pilosa*)

Oak (*Quercus x rosacea*)

Sanicle (*Sanicula europaea*)

Foxdale Valley

A small section of the Foxdale Valley adjacent to Lower Foxdale Village.

This is a small fragment of a larger woodland gradually developing in the Foxdale Valley that is naturally developing to form a 3.5km woodland corridor from Foxdale to St Johns.

The site has a mixed native ground-flora dominated by bluebell and mixed ferns and bramble. No other notable species have been recorded, but smooth stalked sedge grows in the valley.

Location:

Lower Foxdale
(SC276794).

Size:

0.34 ha

Altitude:

70-80m

Ownership:

Private

Species Count:

NA

Gallery:

NA

Map:

Key Species

Oak (*Quercus x rosacea*)

Hazel (*Corylus avelana*)



Injebreck

A thin strip of native woodland running intermittently for 1 km of streamside above Injebreck Reservoir.

The most southerly part of the site is somewhat removed from the main part and forms the lower part of the Colden Steam as it enters the River Glass. With a few oak trees and adjacent to a waterfall, the main interest here is the Wilson's filmy-fern. The only known site for this fern on the Island. Over the road some hazel with abundant glue-stick fungus occurs. The Colden Stream valley (SC355842) has recently had its conifer plantation felled and replanted with a native tree mixture and should become a large addition to the site.

The long northerly section is mostly alder carr and planted mixed broadleaves including various oak trees. A few hazel bushes do occur. The most notable aspect of the site is the altitude, which at 292m is the highest native woodland on the Island. The whole of this stretch is well grazed and no native natural regeneration is present. In addition to this, the somewhat elderly trees suffer from exposure at this altitude and are in generally poor health. It is likely that the woodland is likely to contract somewhat over coming decades.

Tall tutsan (*Hypericum x inodorum*), a garden escapee) is notable here and locally dominant.

As the highest native woodland on the Island this site is ecologically important would be worthy of conservation efforts to enlarge and protect it.

Location:

West Baldwin
(SC350850).

Size:

1.4 ha

Altitude:

172-292m

Ownership:

Private and Government

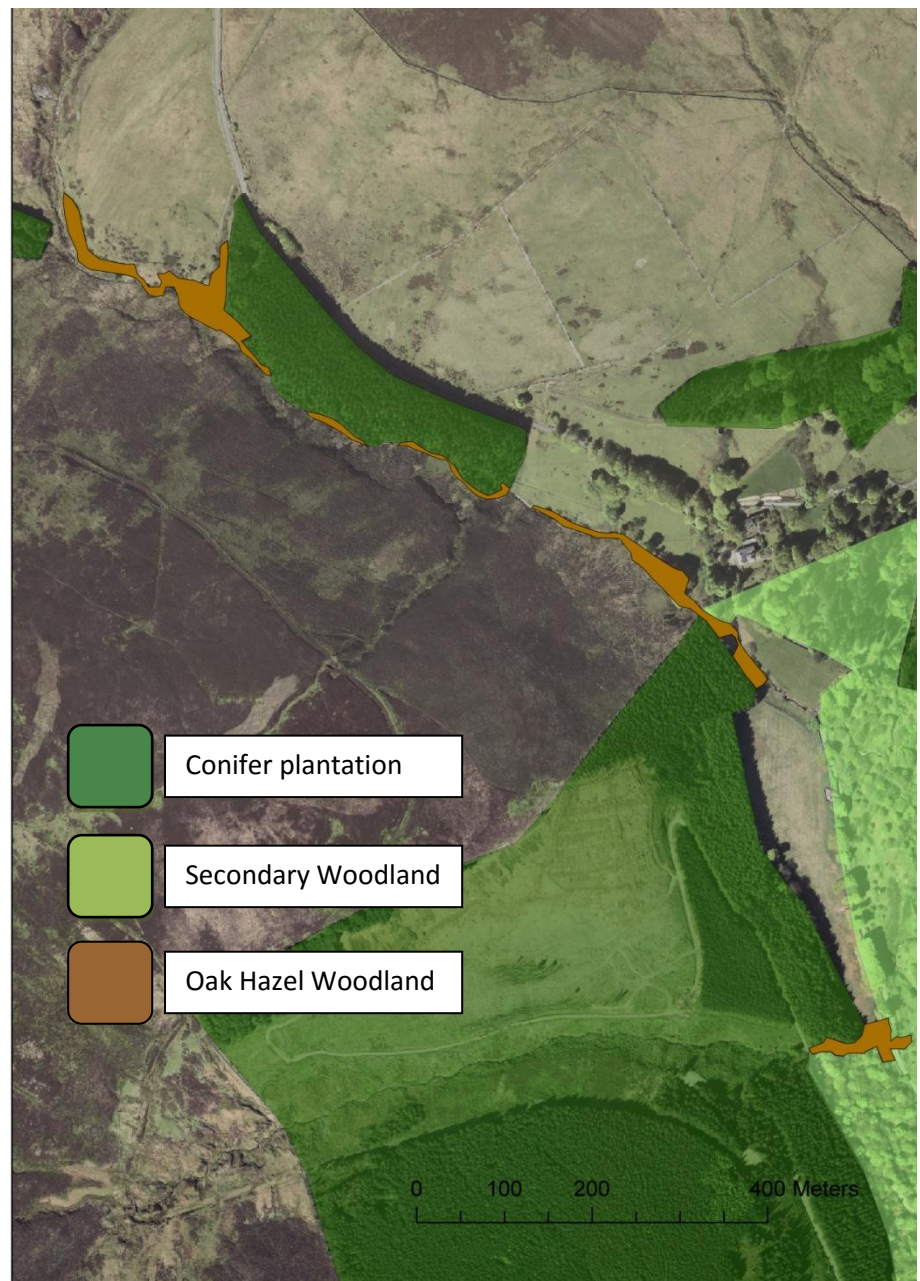
Species Count:

NA

Gallery:

NA

Map:



Key Species

Oak (*Quercus x rosacea*)

Hazel (*Corylus avelana*)

Wilson's filmy-fern (*Hymenophyllum wilsonii*)

Smooth Stalked Sedge (*Carex laevigata*)

Hairy Woodrush (*Luzula pilosa*)

Shoughlaige-e-Caine

A small area of hazel woodland in a species-rich woodland section of larger streamside woodland.

Hairy woodrush occurs under the hazel.

Location:

Cronk-y-Voddy
(SC309874).

Size:

0.7 ha

Altitude:

89m

Ownership:

Private

Species Count:

NA

Gallery:

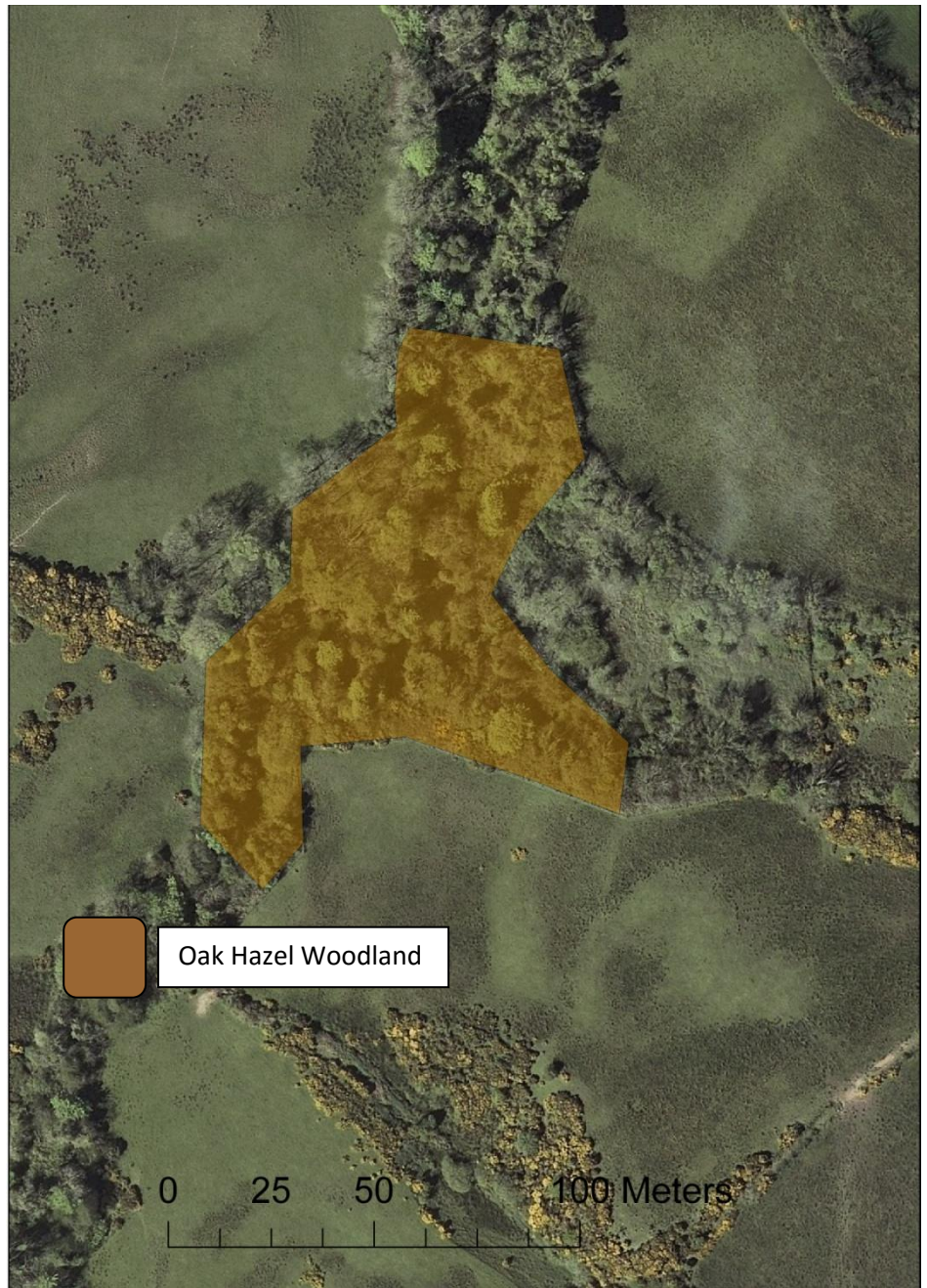
NA

Map:

Key Species

Hairy Woodrush (*Luzula pilosa*)

Hazel (*Corylus avelana*)



Skincoe Brooghs

Really a series of four groves of oak woodland.

The most northerly is in Skincoe Glen, just before it exits on to the sea cliffs. This sheltered area contains the hay-scented buckler-fern population.

The more southerly three groves of oak are larger and on rocky, dry, steep coastal slopes but just about accessible by foot, (there is now public access however). The areas tend to be concentrated in natural dips and cuttings in the cliff slopes where there is a small additional amount of shelter.

These woodland areas are not generally species rich and the bitter vetchling is as common in the surrounding bracken slopes as in the woodland areas. The woodland appears to be contracting with the fringes dotted with the dead stems of old trees and no young trees are present.

Some of the dead stems have live growth at the stump and in some cases this growth has grown prostrate in amongst the heathland vegetation for many meters outwards and is clearly very old. This prostrate oak woodland is a very notable ecological feature.

The most obvious cause of the decline of the oak woodland here is the feral goat population which is very dense along this stretch of coastline. It should be noted however that while the goats probably stop natural recruitment of young trees, they are unlikely to be the cause of the tree mortality, which is probably due to the severe coastal exposure or possibly drought.

The site is of significant ecological interest and deserves to be more widely studied.

Location:

Laxey SC450841

Size:

1.1 ha

Altitude:

30-65m

Ownership:

Private

Species Count:

NA

Gallery:

NA

Map:

Key Species

Oak (*Quercus petraea*)

Bitter Vetchling (*Lathyrus linifolius*)

Hay-scented Buckler Fern (*Dryopteris aemula*)



Tholt-y-Will

Two poorly defined areas of woodland where oak and hazel are present.

To the west, a small stream contains some old oak coppice with hay-scented buckler-fern and possible beech fern on a high river cliff.

To the east along the Sulby River, intermittent hazel grows as a riverbank bush. Hawkweeds are found here (*H. cravoniense* and *H. vulgatum*) on rocks in the river below the hazel bushes.

The National Glen at Tholt-y-Will contains no oak or hazel, but species such as smooth-stalked sedge can be found in a species rich woodland. Bitter Vetchling occurs at SC371895 near the oak coppice area.

The feeder streams to the Sulby reservoir all have beech fern in gorges leading to the sites and despite the lack of oak or hazel are likely to be ancient woodland with the gorge in Glen Crammag particularly noteworthy (SC369869).

These sites along with Block Eary (SC382902) collectively make the Upper Sulby River an important relic of a woodland that was likely to have been more extensive a few hundred years ago. Semi-natural woodland is gradually spreading naturally to link Block Eary with Tholt-y-Will up to the Sulby Reservoir.

Location:

Sulby Valley
(SC370895).

Size:

0.33 ha

Altitude:

84-128m

Ownership:

Government

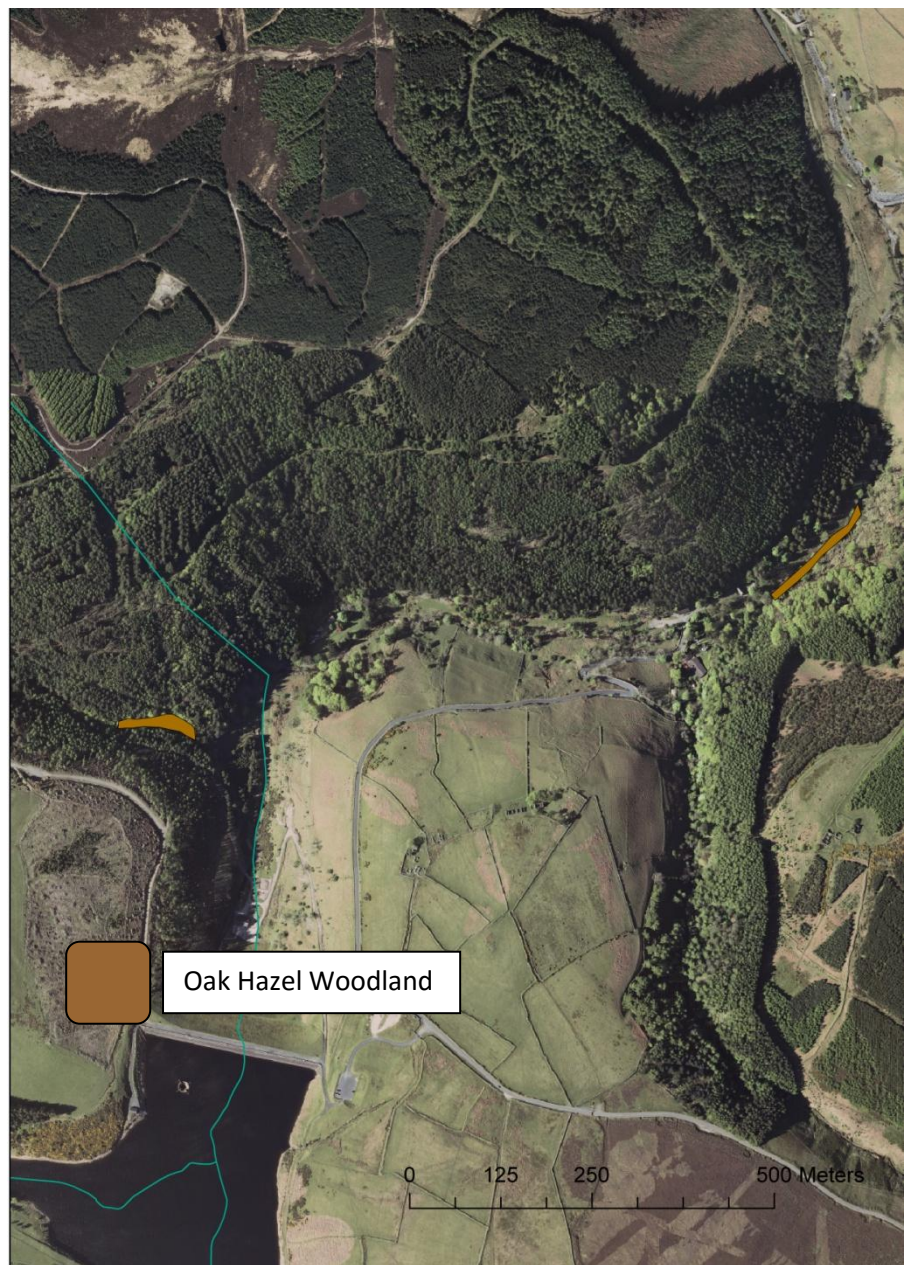
Species Count:

NA

Gallery:

NA

Map:



Key Species

Beech Fern (*Phegopteris dryopteris*)*

Bitter Vetchling (*Lathyrus linifolius*)*

Hairy Woodrush (*Luzula pilosa*)

Hay-scented Buckler Fern (*Dryopteris aemula*)

Hazel (*Corylus avelana*)

Oak (*Quercus x rosacea*)

Smooth Stalked Sedge (*Carex laevigata*)*

Hawkweeds (*Hieracium* spp.)

* occurring outside defined area

Upper Crogga

A lowland woodland along the Crogga River. This site just to the south of 'Bushy's' Glen is part of the Newtown motorcross site. The actual woodland is used as a venue for commercial paintball gaming.

A very species-rich site for its size with additional wetland species such as marsh marigold and ragged robin present and very distinctly more species rich than the secondary woodland downstream.

Bushy's Glen, upstream of the site does have species such as oak and crab apple that, while they are presumably planted, (as part of the old Mount Murray Estate) may also include ancient woodland elements. This area is not included in the mapping.

This is an important part of the Crogga Glen riparian woodland that continues downstream with elements of ancient woodland down to Port Soderick 2km away.

It is likely that the paintball activities are negatively effecting the groundflora of the site

Location:

Santon
(SC331738).

Size:

1.5 ha

Altitude:

90-110m

Ownership:

Private

Species Count:

NA

Gallery:

NA

Map:



Key Species

Hairy Woodrush (*Luzula pilosa*)

Hazel (*Corylus avellana*)

Remote Sedge (*Carex remota*)

Smooth Stalked Sedge (*Carex laevigata*)

Wood Horsetail (*Equisetium sylvaticum*)