

CITATION

**MEALL NA SAMHNA
SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST
Stirling**

Site code: 1139

PLANNING AUTHORITY: Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park Authority

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: NN 480335

OS 1:50,000 SHEET NO: Landranger Series 51
1:25,000 SHEET NO: Explorer Series 378

AREA: 2864.68 hectares

NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES

Biological:	Upland Habitats:	Upland assemblage
	Non Vascular plants:	Bryophyte assemblage
	Non Vascular plants:	Lichen assemblage
	Dragonflies:	Northern emerald dragonfly (<i>Somatochlora arctica</i>)
	Vascular plants:	Vascular plant assemblage

DESCRIPTION

Meall na Samhna Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) is a mountain in the Breadalbane range in central Scotland approximately 9 km west of Killin. It is one of a series of upland sites in the Breadalbane range whose underlying geology includes bands of mineral-rich calcareous schists.

Sites of this type are rare throughout Britain. Meall na Samhna is the only example in the Breadalbane range that retains the complete range of natural habitats and plant communities from river bank to summits. The upland assemblage feature is made up of nationally important complexes of calcareous grasslands, dwarf shrub heath, fen marsh and swamp, montane willow scrub, montane summit heath, inland rock, tall-herb communities, woodland, and bogs.

The high altitude north-facing schist outcrops, along with the species-rich grassland immediately below the cliffs, flush complexes, boulders and burns, support an important assemblage of liverworts and mosses. A number of species recorded from the site are nationally rare, including Greville's forklet moss *Dicranella grevilleana*, *Timmia norvegica* and Scottish beard-moss *Bryoerythrophyllum caledonicum*.

The lichen flora includes a number of rare montane, calcicole species, including *Lempholemma radiatum*, *Stereocaulon tornense* and *Polyblastia terrestris*, often associated with base rich rock outcrops and crags.

The vascular plant assemblage includes the Red Data Book species Alpine bartsia *Bartsia alpina*, Woolly willow *Salix lanata*, Mountain bladder fern *Cystopteris montana* and Alpine woodsia *Woodsia alpina*. The montane willow communities are unusually extensive and diverse. It is the only site in the Breadalbane range for the nationally-rare wavy meadow-grass *Poa flexuosa*.

The upland fauna includes the Northern Emerald dragonfly *Somatochlora arctica*, a Red Data Book species.

NOTIFICATION HISTORY

First notified under the 1949 Act: 1961 and 1971

Re-notified under the 1981 Act: 21 December 1984 with a 188 ha reduction in area

Notification reviewed under the 2004 Act: 25 November 2010

REMARKS

Measured area of site corrected (from 2959.8 ha).

Part of Meall na Samhna SSSI is designated as Meall na Samhna Special Area of Conservation (SAC) for the European habitats listed below:

Habitats: Alpine and subalpine calcareous grasslands
 Montane acid grasslands
 Mountain willow scrub
 Plants in crevices in base-rich rocks
 Species-rich grassland with mat-grass in upland areas
 Tall herb communities