

CITATION

MOCHRUM LOCHS
SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST
Dumfries and Galloway

Site code: 1171

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: NX 295535

OS 1:50,000 SHEET NO: Landranger Series 82
1:25,000 SHEET NO: Explorer Series 310, 311

AREA: 456.36 hectares

NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES

Biological:	Bogs:	Blanket Bog
	Freshwater habitats:	Oligotrophic loch
	Birds:	Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>)

DESCRIPTION

Mochrum Lochs Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) is an area of blanket bog and loch lying 7.5km southwest of Kirkcowan. The area of blanket bog lies between Castle Loch, Black Loch and Mochrum Loch and is the best example of its kind in Wigtownshire, showing a range of vegetation types. The lochs are also the best examples of lowland oligotrophic waters in Wigtownshire.

The site provides a clear view of the variations found on this type of habitat. The drier areas are dominated by cranberry *Vaccinium oxycoccus*, purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea*, heather *Calluna vulgaris*, hare's-tail cottongrass *Eriophorum vaginatum*, cross-leaved heath *Erica tetralix* and *Sphagnum rubellum*. The wet areas are dominated by *Sphagnum* species with bog rosemary *Andromeda polifolia*, white beak-sedge *Rhynchospora alba*, deergrass *Trichophorum cespitosum* and bog myrtle *Myrica gale* also present.

Mochrum Lochs hold the largest inland breeding colony of cormorants in Great Britain with some 343 breeding pairs recorded in May 2000.

The lochs and surrounding habitats also provide one of the richest assemblages of breeding bird species in Wigtownshire of which there are 60 species within the SSSI. These include mallard, great-crested grebe, little grebe, tufted duck, red-breasted merganser, oystercatcher, lapwing, ringed plover, common sandpiper, redshank, common tern, gulls and various passerines.

NOTIFICATION HISTORY

First notified under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949: 1962.

Re-notified under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981: 4 August 1986 with a 44.45 ha decrease in area.

Notification reviewed under the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004: 4 June 2010.

REMARKS

Measured area of site corrected (from 460.2 ha).

Part of Mochrum Lochs SSSI is designated as Mochrum Lochs Special Area of Conservation (SAC) for the European habitats listed below.

Habitats: Blanket bog
 Depressions on peat substrates