

## CITATION

**PORTNELLAN – ROSS PRIORY - CLADDOCHSIDE  
SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST**  
West Dunbartonshire

Site code: 1309

PLANNING AUTHORITY: Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park Authority

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: NS 404872, NS 413876, NS 427878

OS 1:50,000 SHEET NO: Landranger Series 56  
1:25,000 SHEET NO: Explorer Series 347

AREA: 24.44 hectares

## NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES

**Geological: Quaternary geology and geomorphology : Quaternary of Scotland**

## DESCRIPTION

Portnellan - Ross Priory - Claddochside Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) is a composite site in three parts located on the southern shore of Loch Lomond about 5 km north of Balloch and 2 km north-west of Gartocharn. This site is the best example in the West Dunbartonshire Council area of the late glacial and post glacial processes of the Loch Lomond Readvance.

Together, these three compartments provide important stratigraphic and geomorphological evidence for the Lateglacial sequence of marine and glacial events in the type area for the Loch Lomond Advance. They demonstrate a Lateglacial marine transgression, indicated by "Clyde Beds" at Claddochside, followed by the formation of a very prominent shoreline seen as an impressive rock platform at Ross Priory. This shoreline has been correlated with the Main Lateglacial shoreline of western Scotland. At Portnellan the platform and backing cliff are covered by Loch Lomond Advance till, providing clear evidence that the shoreline was formed before the glacier advance reached its maximum extent. The till also buries the "Clyde Beds" at Claddochside. A further marine transgression after the Loch Lomond Advance is indicated by the Main Postglacial Shoreline represented at Portnellan and Ross Priory, whose width in part reflects exhumation of the Main Lateglacial Shoreline. The three compartments thus provide a key assemblage of geomorphological and stratigraphic evidence demonstrating that the Loch Lomond Advance in its type area represents a distinct glacier advance after a period of marine transgression, sedimentation and shoreline formation. Furthermore, they illustrate the detailed pattern of Lateglacial and Postglacial changes in relative sea level.

## NOTIFICATION HISTORY

First notified under the 1981 Act: 3 October 1991

Notification reviewed under the 2004 Act: 27 January 2011

## REMARK

Measured area of site corrected (from 22.1 ha)

Part of Portnellan - Ross Priory - Claddochside SSSI is part of the Loch Lomond Special Protection Area (SPA), which is designated for the birds listed below.

Birds : Capercaillie (*Tetrao urogallus*), breeding  
: Greenland white-fronted goose (*Anser albifrons flavirostris*), non-breeding

Part of Portnellan - Ross Priory - Claddochside SSSI is also part of the Endrick Mouth and Islands SSSI, which is notified for the features listed below.

Geomorphology :	Quaternary of Scotland
	Fluvial geomorphology of Scotland
Woodlands :	Upland oak woodland
Fens :	Hydromorphological mire range
Vascular plants	Vascular plant assemblage
Non-vascular plants	Bryophyte assemblage
Invertebrates	Beetle assemblage

Birds : Breeding bird assemblage  
Greenland white-fronted goose (*Anser albifrons flavirostris*), non-breeding  
Greylag goose (*Anser anser*), non-breeding