

CITATION

WEST LOCH LOMONDSIDE WOODLANDS SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST

Argyll and Bute

Site code: 1609

PLANNING AUTHORITY: Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park Authority

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: NS 339999; NS 348965; NS 345925; NS 335976

OS 1:50,000 SHEET NO: Landranger Series 56
1:25,000 SHEET NO: Explorer Series 364, 347

AREA: 534.86 hectares

NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES

Biological: Woodlands: Upland oak woodland

DESCRIPTION

West Loch Lomondside Woodlands Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) is comprised of four woodland compartments located adjacent to the A82, on the east-facing slopes above Loch Lomond between Luss and Stuckgowan. The SSSI includes extensive areas of upland oakwood, typical of much of those found throughout Loch Lomondside. However, within West Loch Lomondside Woodlands SSSI there is a greater diversity of woodland types due to the variety of soils, aspect, land use history and management on the western shores of Loch Lomond.

Much of the woodland is fairly open which, unlike the woodlands on the east side of the loch or on the main islands, provides scope for the expansion of the woodlands back up the western slopes. Within the SSSI, ancient oak woodland typically dominates the canopy on the lower slopes and more free draining areas, while birch woodland becomes dominant on the higher slopes, reaching an elevation over 200m. In the wetter parts of the SSSI stands of alder woodland can be found while ash and wych elm occur in the stream gorges. The shrub layer of the SSSI is relatively sparse however hazel, holly and rowan occur locally.

In the open areas and woodland glades bracken dominates the field layer. However in the wooded areas various grasses and herbs such as wood sorrel *Oxalis acetosella*, common dog violet *Viola riviniana*, lesser celandine *Ranunculus ficaria*, primrose *Primula vulgaris* and dog's mercury *Mercurialis perennis*, occur in the field layer. Lemon-scented fern is frequent throughout the SSSI and beech fern *Phegopteris connectilis*, oak fern *Gymnocarpium dryopteris* and Wilson's filmy fern *Hymenophyllum wilsonii* are also present. Amongst the bryophyte community oceanic species are well represented within the SSSI.

NOTIFICATION HISTORY

First notified under the 1981 Act: 5 August 1983

Notification reviewed under the 2004 Act: 18 June 2010

REMARKS

Measured area of site corrected (from 504.4 ha)

Part of West Loch Lomondside Woodlands SSSI is part of the Loch Lomond Woods Special Area of Conservation (SAC), which is designated for the European habitats and species listed below.

Habitats : Western acidic oak woodland

Species : Otter (*Lutra lutra*)