CITATION

CAMILLA LOCH
SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST
Fife

Site code: 307

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: NT 220915

OS 1:50,000 SHEET NO: Landranger Series 58
1:25,000 SHEET NO: Explorer Series 367

AREA: 8.02 ha.

NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES

Biological:

Freshwater habitats: Meso-eutrophic loch
Fens: Open water transition fen
Springs (including flushes)

DESCRIPTION

Camilla Loch is a small naturally occurring meso-eutrophic water body lying in undulating countryside 6 km west of Kirkcaldy. The main feature of interest is the extensive and diverse area of freshwater transition mire at the west end of the loch which is relatively undisturbed and is the best example of its type in West Fife. The loch is enclosed to the north and south by two scrub dominated ridges. The north ridge supports an area of herb rich calcicolous grassland and along its base gives rise to several base-rich flushes; these habitats are scarce and declining in the District and add to the diversity of the site. Several plant species which are rare or local in the District also occur.

The loch supports several aquatic species including spiked water-milfoil *Myriophyllum spicatum* and ivy-leaved duckweed *Lemna trisulca* which is scarce in Fife. At the western edge the open water fringe is dominated by bottle sedge *Carex rostrata* with floating rafts of bogbean *Menyanthes trifoliata* and amphibious bistort *Persicaria amphibia*. The fringing swamp vegetation grades westwards into intermediate fen largely dominated by water horsetail *Equisetum fluviatile* with frequent bottle sedge, marsh-bedstraw *Galium palustre*, sharp-flowered rush *Juncus acutiflorus* and meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria*. Behind this is a wet meadow characterised by species such as ragged robin *Lychnis flos-cuculi*, lesser spearwort *Ranunculus flammula*, marsh-marigold *Caltha palustris* and water-cress *Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum*.

Along the north shore of the loch is a strip of herb-rich neutral grassland. Several basic flushes which arise in this area are dominated by sharp-flowered rush *Juncus acutiflorus* and jointed rush *J. articulatus*. These flushes support a range of species typical of base rich conditions such as marsh arrow-grass *Triglochin palustris* and

long-stalked yellow-sedge *Carex viridula subsp. Brachyrrhyncha,* the last of which is scarce in Fife.

NOTIFICATION HISTORY

First notified under the 1981 Act:: 21 September 1989
Notification reviewed under the 2004 Act: 10 July 2009

REMARKS

Measured area of site corrected (from 8.24 ha)