

CITATION

**COILLE COIRE CHUILC
SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST
Stirling**

Site code: 377

PLANNING AUTHORITY: Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park Authority

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: NN 328280

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

AREA: 129.52 hectares

NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES

Biological: Woodlands : Native pinewood
Invertebrates : Fly assemblage
Invertebrates : Beetle assemblage

DESCRIPTION

Coille Coire Chuilc SSSI, located approximately 2 km south of Tyndrum, is an extensive southerly remnant of the ancient Caledonian Pinewood which once covered much of northern Scotland and is one of only two remaining ancient pinewoods in the Stirling District. Early fragmentation of the original Caledonian wood has resulted in the isolation of Coille Coire Chuilc from other native pinewoods and the consequent development of a unique genetic structure. The ancient pinewood also supports a rich invertebrate fauna including several rare fly and beetle species.

The pinewood has a north-easterly exposure and the underlying dumped glacial materials form an undulating ground topography. Scots pine *Pinus sylvestris* ssp *scotica* is dominant on the drier knolls with heathland ground communities comprising mainly ling *Calluna vulgaris*, cross-leaved heath *Erica tetralix* and bilberry *Vaccinium myrtillus*. The flat hollows and lower slopes between the knolls are covered by acidic mire communities in which purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea*, bog asphodel *Narthecium ossifragum* and sedges *Carex* species are common, with a very high ground cover of mosses, notably the bog-mosses *Sphagnum* species. Where water movement occurs stands of bog myrtle *Myrica gale* are found.

The ancient pinewood supports a rich invertebrate fauna which is particularly notable for the abundance of rare fly and beetle species. The SSSI supports one red data book (*Pityophthorus lichtensteini*) and 11 nationally scarce beetle species. The site also supports five red data book (*Scoliocentra scutellaris*, *Platycheirus melanopsis*, *Chamaesyphus scaevoides*, *Tipula limbata* and *Fannia umbratica*) and 7 nationally scarce fly species. Many of these are restricted to pinewood habitat and are

therefore dependant on its continuation for their survival. The rare wood ant *Formica aquilonia* is also present within the SSSI.

NOTIFICATION HISTORY

First notified under the 1949 Act: 1955 and 1971

Re-notified under the 1981 Act: 18 March 1986 with a 28.6 ha increase in area.

Notification reviewed under the 2004 Act: 4 June 2010

REMARKS

Measured area of site corrected (from 129.2 ha)

Coille Coire Chuilc SSSI lies adjacent to Ben Lui SSSI.

Part of Coille Coire Chuilc SSSI is also part of the River Tay Special Area of Conservation (SAC) designated for the European habitats and species listed below.

Habitats : Clear-water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation and poor to moderate nutrient levels

Species : Otter (*Lutra lutra*)
: Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*)
: Brook lamprey (*Lampetra planeri*)
: River lamprey (*Lampetra fluviatilis*)
: Sea lamprey (*Petromyzon marinus*)