

CITATION

ENDRICK MOUTH AND ISLANDS SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST Stirling and West Dunbartonshire

Site code: 610

PLANNING AUTHORITY: Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park Authority

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: NS 394887 (Creinch)
NS 401893 (Torrinch)
NS 409902 (Inchcailloch)
NS 413899 (Clairinsh)
NS 419888 (Aber Isle)
NS 440885 (Endrick Mouth)

OS 1:50,000 SHEET NO: Landranger Series 56, 57
1:25,000 SHEET NO: Explorer Series 347

AREA: 471.13 hectares

NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES

Geological : Geomorphology :	Fluvial geomorphology of Scotland
Biological : Woodlands :	Upland oak woodland
Fens :	Hydromorphological mire range
Birds :	Breeding bird assemblage
Birds :	Greenland white-fronted goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>), non-breeding
Birds :	Greylag goose (<i>Anser anser</i>), non-breeding
Vascular plants :	Vascular plant assemblage
Non-vascular plants :	Bryophyte assemblage
Invertebrates :	Beetle assemblage

DESCRIPTION:

The Endrick Mouth and Islands Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) is located at the south-eastern corner of Loch Lomond. The seven compartments that make up the site include the mainland on both north and south of the Endrick Water and the following five islands; Aber Isle, Clairinsh, Inchcailloch, Torrinch and Creinch.

The natural features of the site include river geomorphology and the habitats of upland oak woodlands, flood-plain fen, hydromorphological mire range and open water. These habitats support the natural species of note on this site, which are; breeding bird assemblage, Greenland white-fronted geese *Anser albifrons*

flavirostris, greylag geese *Anser anser*, vascular plant assemblage, bryophyte assemblage and an assemblage of rare beetles.

Geomorphology

Downstream of Woodend Lodge the River Endrick is of considerable geomorphological interest. It is an excellent example of a relatively unmodified and highly sinuous lowland river with irregular meanders. In these lowest reaches the river channel has low rates of channel migration, where extensive overbank fine sedimentation occurs during floods. On the floodplain there are excellent examples of palaeo-features such as meander scrolls and an oxbow lake near Low Mains.

Woodland Communities

The islands have a range of oak woodland communities with a varied ground flora. Inchcailloch is the largest island on the site, and the woods are mainly sessile oak *Quercus petraea* with many specimens 200 years old, and some older. In wet areas there is alder *Alnus glutinosa* coppice, and on the two summits there is Scots pine *Pinus sylvestris*. The ground flora is somewhat variable on all the islands, dominated by great wood-rush *Luzula sylvatica*, blaeberry *Vaccinium myrtillus*, bluebells *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, and bracken *Pteridium aquilinum*. Torrinch has a mix of sessile oak and some aspen *Populus tremula*, but it is mostly downy birch *Betula pubescens*. Clairinsh is a small flat island with more diversity of species. On Creinch are sessile oaks and some ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, but most of the wood is coppiced wych elms *Ulmus glabra* that are occasionally parasitized by toothwort *Lathraea squamaria*. Aber Isle is a very small island and has mostly alder and ash woodland. There is also guelder rose *Viburnum opulus* and the site's only hornbeam, *Carpinus betulus*.

On the mainland the oak woodlands are mostly younger, with the occasional much older specimen tree. Ring Wood East and West are oak woodland with a mosaic of other species transitioning to downy birch in wet woodland. Pentagonal Wood is oak woodland with alder and ash. Shore Wood has a rocky shore with oak woodland mixed with ash and alder that are subject to regular inundation.

Fen Communities

The Endrick Mouth is naturally low lying and the hydromorphological mire range includes one of the best examples of a natural flood-plain in Scotland because it has not been severely modified by drainage or flood defences. Other habitats in the fen communities include grassland, bog, mire, marsh, reed bed, wet woodland and open water. The flood-plain fen is seasonally replenished with nutrients from the sediment deposits along the banks of the Endrick Water, from Woodend Field to the Crom Mhin.

There is a rich range of plants adapted to the various water table levels from free floating to those that tolerate seasonal water logging. The site supports the Nationally Scarce tufted loosestrife *Lysimachia thyrsoiflora* and cowbane *Cicuta virosa*, and there is a small population of the Nationally Rare Scottish dock *Rumex aquaticus*. The Scottish dock is of particular importance as its UK distribution is limited to a few populations around the lower part of the Endrick catchment and the southern shore of Loch Lomond.

Birds

The wetland and open water are noted for their breeding and migrant birds. The Endrick Mouth is regionally-important for its wintering wildfowl, including a large wintering population of Greenland white-fronted geese. From autumn to spring around 2% of the UK population of Greenland white-fronted geese usually roost in the vicinity of Ring Point and Wards Pond, but will also use other locations of open water, especially during flood events. Greylag geese usually roost in the vicinity of Crom Mhin, Ring Point and on Wards Pond. The Woodend fields, areas around Wards Pond and Limehill Field are important grazing areas for geese.

Breeding birds of lowland damp grassland include ducks such as shelduck *Tadorna tadorna* and waders such as redshank *Tringa totanus* and snipe *Gallinago gallinago*. Lowland open water and margins are the preferred habitat here for ducks such as shoveler *Anas crecca* and insectivorous birds such as the grasshopper warbler *Locustella naevia* and the reed bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*. The woodlands are important for breeding tree pipit *Anthus trivialis*, redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*, and the occasional pied flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*. There is also a heronry at Gartfairn Wood.

Vascular plant assemblage

There are many plant species that are rare or scarce which make up the plant assemblage feature. One nationally-rare and threatened plant species is the Scottish dock *Rumex aquaticus*, which is endemic to the Loch Lomond area. The nationally-scarce species present are cowbane *Cicuta virosa*, eight-stamened waterwort *Elatine hydropiper*, and tufted loosestrife *Lysimachia thyrsoiflora*. Locally rare plants from the site are awlwort *Subularia aquatica*, brown sedge *Carex disticha* and thread rush *Juncus filiformis*. The regionally uncommon six-stamened waterwort *Elatine hexandra* and elongated sedge *Carex elongata* are frequently found on the site.

Bryophyte assemblage

The site is of bryological importance primarily for the presence of the near-threatened and ephemeral moss *Physcomitrium sphaericum* at the margins of Ward Ponds, one of only two recent sites in Scotland for this species. There are also at least two nationally-scarce species, *Cololejeunea rossettiana* on Creinch and *Sphagnum subsecundum* at Dragonfly Pond. The bryophyte flora of the woodlands is of some interest, and contains Atlantic elements, although they are much less rich than woodlands further to the north-west, including those on the west banks of Loch Lomond.

Beetle assemblage

The site is rich in invertebrates and there are three Red Data Book saproxylic species known from here; *Eutheia linearis*, a rove beetle *Tachinus rufipennis* and an ant beetle *Anthicus flavipes*. The endangered beetle *Eutheia linearis* lives in rotting vegetable material on Inchcailloch. In addition the Red Data Book aquatic beetle *Hydroporus rufifrons* inhabits this site.

NOTIFICATION HISTORY

Endrick Mouth and Islands SSSI combined with Aber Bog, Gartocharn Bog and Bell Moss SSSI under the 2004 Act: 02 March 2015.

Endrick Mouth and Islands SSSI Notification History:

First notified under the 1949 Act:

1955 as Creinch and Torrinch SSSI, 1959 as Endrick Mouth SSSI and 1973 as Loch Lomond NNR.

Re-notified under the 1981 Act: 24 October 1988 as Endrick Mouth and Islands SSSI with a 199 ha increase in area.

Notification reviewed under the 2004 Act: 7 January 2011

Aber Bog, Gartocharn Bog and Bell Moss SSSI Notification History:

First notified under the 1949 Act: 1959 as part of Endrick Mouth SSSI and 1972 as Aber Bog SSSI.

Re-notified under the 1981 Act: 20 May 1983 as Aber Bog, Gartocharn Bog & Bell Moss SSSI.

Notification reviewed under the 2004 Act: 26 February 2010

REMARKS

Boundary of Endrick Mouth and Islands SSSI extended by incorporating Aber Bog, Gartocharn Bog and Bell Moss SSSI through the combination of these two SSSI.

Part of Endrick Mouth and Islands SSSI (the islands Inchcailloch, Clairinsh, Torrinch and Creinch) are 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*)

Part of Endrick Mouth and Islands SSSI is part of the Endrick Water Special Area of Conservation (SAC), which is designated for the European species listed below.

Species: Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*)

Brook lamprey (*Lampetra planeri*)

River lamprey (*Lampetra fluviatilis*)

Part of the mainland of Endrick Mouth and Islands 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 Endrick Mouth and Islands SSSI is part of the Portnellan - Ross Priory – Claddochside SSSI, which is notified for its Quaternary of Scotland geology.

Endrick Mouth and Islands SSSI is adjacent to Endrick Water SSSI.