

## CITATION

**GARTMORN DAM**  
**SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST**  
Clackmannanshire

Site code: 678

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: NS 920943

OS 1:50,000 SHEET NO: Landranger Series 58  
1:25,000 SHEET NO: Explorer Series 366

AREA 66.26ha

## NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES

**Biological: Freshwater habitats: Eutrophic loch**  
**Fens: Open water transition fen**

## DESCRIPTION:

Gartmorn Dam is sited in the lowland area of central Clackmannanshire, 2.5 km north-west of Alloa and 2km north of Clackmannan. The site is the largest area of open water in the district and represents a typical eutrophic lowland loch, with characteristic submerged plants, surrounded by open water transition fen of marginal vegetation and reed swamp.

The open water is highly productive and nutrient-rich supporting a wide variety of large submerged or floating plants. In particular, an unusually large number of pondweeds *Potamogeton* spp. occur, including one nationally scarce species, slender-leaved pondweed *Potamogeton filiformis*, and several that are locally uncommon. The transition fens consist largely of reedswamp *Phragmites australis*, bulrushes *Typha latifolia*, reed sweet grass *Glyceria maxima* and common spike-rush *Eleocharis palustris*. They support plant species which are scarce in the area such as trailing St John's-wort *Hypericum humifusum*; it is also the only known site in Clackmannanshire for the trifid bur-marigold *Bidens tripartita*.

Whilst the site is not notified for birds as a natural feature, the proximity of Gartmorn Dam to the internationally important bird populations of the Forth estuary also means that it is of regional importance as a wintering area for geese, swans and duck in times of inclement weather; and for migrant waders in autumn.

## NOTIFICATION HISTORY

First notified under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949: 1971

Re-notified under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981: 14 October 1986

Notification reviewed under the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004:  
11 March 2011

## REMARKS:

Measured area of site corrected (from 70.7 ha).