

CITATION

INCHMOAN
SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST
Argyll and Bute

Site code: 805

PLANNING AUTHORITY: Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: NS 376 907

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

AREA: 45.84 hectares

NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES

Biological: Bogs: Raised Bog

DESCRIPTION

Inchmoan is one of a group of islands at the southern end of Loch Lomond in Argyll and Bute Council area. The shore-side settlement of Luss is nearby. Inchmoan was selected as a SSSI because it is an extensive area of low-lying peat within the Loch Lomond area. Although much of the island was cut-over for peat during the 19th century, a thick layer of peat still exists across the island with a surface vegetation similar to that of a lowland raised bog.

Since initial notification, much of the island has been encroached upon by woodland with an open canopy of birch and locally-frequent Scots pine towards the centre. The remaining area of active raised bog is in the north of the island. The surface of the peat across the island is, however, still *Sphagnum*-rich, even under all but the driest birch woods at the east end of the island. Heather *Calluna vulgaris* dominates the open bog and the central area where the tree canopy is still open. Blaeberry *Vaccinium myrtillus* increases in cover to the south and west where tree canopy is closed until it replaces heather as the dominant shrub below the trees. Cross-leaved heath *Erica tetralix*, cranberry *Vaccinium oxycoccos*, and hare's-tail cottongrass *Eriophorum vaginatum* are all frequent on the open bog.

Capercaillie are also present on the island, although they are not a notified feature of this SSSI. Capercaillie require woodland with a well-developed shrub layer, especially comprising blaeberry.

NOTIFICATION HISTORY

First notified under the 1949 Act: 1972

Re-notified under the 1981 Act: 22 March 1983

Notification reviewed under the 2004 Act: 3 December 2009

REMARKS

Measured area of site corrected (from 45.7 ha)

Inchmoan SSSI is also part of the Loch Lomond Special Protection Area (SPA) designated for the birds listed below.

- Birds : Capercaillie *Tetrao urogallus*, breeding
- : Greenland white-fronted goose *Anser albifrons flavirostris*, non-breeding