

## CITATION

**LAKE OF MENTEITH  
SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST**  
Stirling

Site code: 900

**PLANNING AUTHORITY:** Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park Authority

**NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE:** NN 577005

OS 1:50,000 SHEET NO: Landranger Series 57  
1:25,000 SHEET NO: Explorer Series 365

**AREA:** 485.49 hectares

## NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES

**Geological: Quaternary geology and geomorphology: Quaternary of Scotland**  
**Biological: Freshwater habitats : Mesotrophic loch**  
**Vascular plants : Vascular plant assemblage**  
**Birds : Pink-footed goose**

## DESCRIPTION

Lake of Menteith Site of Scientific Interest (SSSI) is located in the Carse of Stirling, 5 km to the east of Aberfoyle. The site is notified for its mesotrophic loch, vascular plant assemblage, pink-footed goose population and Quaternary of Scotland features. The lake contains the most diverse aquatic plant community mosaics in standing water in the Stirling district, along with a well developed succession of habitats from open water to woodland.

The banks along the eastern shoreline of the lake are notified for its Quaternary of Scotland geological interest. Exposures in these banks reveal shelly marine clay overlain by the sands and gravels of the Menteith moraine. Marine shells from these sediments have been used to date the Loch Lomond Readvance. Dates directly related to this glacial readvance are only available from a few sites in Britain.

Mesotrophic freshwater systems are especially uncommon in lowland Britain, and are under threat from nutrient enrichment. The succession of habitats from open water through swamp to carr, grassland and woodland is well developed around the lake because of its broad, shallow periphery, the low, natural fluctuation of its water level and the lack of disturbance along its shores.

The lake's extensive stands of submerged and floating-leaved aquatic plants form the most diverse aquatic plant community mosaic of any standing water system in the Stirling area. The nationally-rare eight stamened waterwort *Elatine hydropiper* and six stamened waterwort *Elatine hexandra* occur on the site, along with slender naiad *Najas flexilis*, which is a European Protected Species. These three aquatic plants are indicative of mesotrophic conditions and together with the two terrestrial plant species, nationally-scarce tufted loosestrife *Lysimachia thyrsiflora* and spignel *Meum athamanticum*, make up the vascular plant assemblage.

Lake of Menteith is a winter roost site, supporting internationally important numbers of pink-footed geese *Anser brachyrhynchus*.

**NOTIFICATION HISTORY**

First notified under the 1981 Act: 28 September 1993

Notification reviewed under the 2004 Act: 14 March 2011

**REMARKS**

Measured area of site corrected (from 488.7 ha)

Lake of Menteith SSSI is adjacent to Loch Macanrie Fens SSSI.