

**CITATION****ASHGROVE LOCH  
SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST  
North Ayrshire**

Site code: 93

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: NS 275 443

OS 1:50,000 SHEET NO: Landranger Series 63  
1:25,000 SHEET NO: Explorer Series 341

AREA: 22.65 hectares

**NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES**Biological: Freshwater habitats: Mesotrophic loch  
Biological: Freshwater habitats: Open water transition fen**DESCRIPTION**

Ashgrove Loch, located approximately 2km north of Stevenston, is a mesotrophic loch which supports a succession of wildlife habitats from open water through fen and swamp to marshy grassland. The loch is the only example of a mineral enriched mesotrophic loch in North Ayrshire. Around ten percent of the surface of the loch remains as open water, the remaining surface is covered by a floating raft of vegetation illustrating a variety of fen and swamp communities that are the best example of their type in North Ayrshire.

The loch is botanically very rich, and contains two nationally scarce species of plant, tufted loosestrife *Lysimachia thyrsiflora* and cowbane *Cicuta virosa*.

Also of interest but not a feature for which the site is notified is the variety of birds that utilise the site, including grasshopper warbler, sedge warbler and several species of wildfowl. The site is also locally important for invertebrates and is known to support otter.

**NOTIFICATION HISTORY**

First notified under the 1949 Act: 1975

Re-notified under the 1981 Act: 30 September 1986 with a 2.44 hectare net decrease in area.

Notification reviewed under the 2004 Act: 21 January 2008

**REMARKS**

Measured area of site corrected from 23 hectares