

Ramsar Site Description: 3UK099

### **Castle Loch, Dumfries and Galloway**

Castle Loch is a shallow eutrophic loch in southwest Scotland with large stands of emergent vegetation. The margins support a wide range of vegetation from marshy grassland to mature woodland. The boundary of the proposed international site follows that of Castle Loch SSSI.

Castle Loch qualifies under Criterion 3c by regularly supporting in winter, during the late 1980s and early 1990s, an internationally important wintering population of Icelandic/Greenlandic pink-footed geese *Anser brachyrhynchus*. In the five-year period 1987/88 to 1991/92 there was an average peak count of 8,300 representing 4% of the British and total world populations.

Castle Loch also supports a notable wintering population of goosander *M. merganser* (1% of British).

Area: 104.4ha

National Grid Reference: NY 087815

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EC Directive:

Castle Loch is a shallow eutrophic loch in southwest Scotland with large stands of emergent vegetation. The margins support a wide range of vegetation from marshy grassland to mature woodland. The boundary of the proposed international site follows that of Castle Loch SSSI.

The site qualifies under Article 4.2 by supporting an internationally important wintering population of Icelandic/Greenlandic pink-footed geese *Anser brachyrhynchus*. In the five-year period 1987/88 to 1991/92 the average peak count 8,300, representing 4% of the British and total world population.

Notable also is a nationally important wintering population of goosander *Mergus merganser* : 1987/88 to 1991/92 winter peak mean of 66 (1% of the British population).

Area: 104.4ha

National Grid Reference: NY 087815

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