



EADHA ENTERPRISES NATIONAL ASPEN CLONE COLLECTION

LOCH LIBO CLONE

Loch Libo is a freshwater loch in East Renfrewshire in the Parish of Neilston. It is the source of the Lugton Water which flows from the southern end of the loch, running 14 miles before reaching its confluence with the River Garnock near Kilwinning. The name is of great antiquity and 'Libo' may be pre-Gaelic in origin. The loch lies in a glen, with Caldwell Law to the north and Uplawmoor Wood to the south. In the 14th century it was referred to as 'Loch le Bog Syde' in a charter, meaning the 'Bogside Loch'. The loch is now owned by the Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT) and is managed as a nature reserve. Loch Libo's waters are recorded to hold tench, eels, perch, pike, carp, and roach and is the fishing preserve of the Scottish Carp Group. A coal seam dips down under the southern margin of the loch and a mine was dug in the 1780s. In 1793 the waters of the loch burst into the workings and at least six miners were drowned, their bodies never being recovered. The loch and part of Caldwell-Lawside Wood have been a Site of Scientific Interest (SSSI) since 1972. Loch Libo is the best example of a eutrophic loch in East Renfrewshire with aquatic and emergent vegetation. Significant plants include the nationally scarce cowbane *Cicuta virosa* and the locally uncommon greater tussock sedge *Carex paniculata* and lesser pond sedge *Carex acutiformis*. The nationally uncommon species lesser tussock sedge *Carex diandra*, water sedge *Carex aquatilis*, slender tufted sedge *Carex acuta* and water parsnip *Berula erecta* are also present. A small number of native aspens fringe the loch.