

RAMSAR DESIGNATION

LLYN TEGID (BALA LAKE)

Llyn Tegid is the largest natural lake in Wales lying

in a deep glacial trough. Its aquatic vegetation is sparse but the range of species is indicative of generally mesotrophic conditions. Amongst the plant species growing in and beside the lake are Limosella aquatica, Elatine hexandra, Carex aquatilis and Luronium natans, all of which are scarce in Britain. Luronium natans has been recorded since 1970 in only 17 10 km squares in Britain, including 3 where it is probably an introduction. This species is classified by IUCN as vulnerable in Europe and the world.

Llyn Tegid is one of six sites in Britain, and the only site in Wales, for the whitefish (gwyniad) Coregonus lavaretus. Also present is the grayling Thymallus thymallus which is generally found in rivers rather than standingwaters. The presence, of these two species makes Llyn Tegid's fish fauna unique in Britain.

Llyn Tegid qualifies for designation under the Ramsar Convention because it is a good example of a mesotrophic lake, which supports an internationally rare plant species and an unusual fish community.