

Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS)

Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7, as amended by Resolution VIII.13 of the Conference of the Contracting Parties.

Note for compilers:

1. The RIS should be completed in accordance with the attached *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines for completing the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands*. Compilers are strongly advised to read this guidance before filling in the RIS.
2. Once completed, the RIS (and accompanying map(s)) should be submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat. Compilers are strongly urged to provide an electronic (MS Word) copy of the RIS and, where possible, digital copies of maps.

1. Name and address of the compiler of this form:**Joint Nature Conservation Committee**

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Designation date

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Site Reference Number

2. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

9 March 2006

3. Country:

UK (Scotland)

4. Name of the Ramsar site:

Loch of Lintrathen

5. Map of site included:Refer to Annex III of the *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines*, for detailed guidance on provision of suitable maps.**a) hard copy** (required for inclusion of site in the Ramsar List): *yes* ✓ -or- *no***b) digital (electronic) format** (optional): Yes

6. Geographical coordinates (latitude/longitude):

56 40 40 N

03 11 00 W

7. General location:

Include in which part of the country and which large administrative region(s), and the location of the nearest large town.

Nearest town/city: Dundee

Loch of Lintrathen is a large oligotrophic-mesotrophic, mid-altitude loch, above Strathmore, in eastern Scotland. The loch occupies a glacial basin.

Administrative region: Angus

8. Elevation (average and/or max. & min.) (metres): **9. Area** (hectares): 216.81

Min. 208

Max. 208

Mean 208

10. Overview:

Provide a short paragraph giving a summary description of the principal ecological characteristics and importance of the wetland.

Loch of Lintrathen is a mid-altitude oligotrophic-mesotrophic loch occupying a glacial basin and now used as a water supply reservoir, located in Angus in east Scotland. In winter, the site is a roost for internationally important numbers of greylag geese *Anser anser*.

11. Ramsar Criteria:

Circle or underline each Criterion applied to the designation of the Ramsar site. See Annex II of the *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines* for the Criteria and guidelines for their application (adopted by Resolution VII.11).

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Secretariat comment: The RIS provides information requiring the application of Criterion 4. This needs to be included in the next update.

12. Justification for the application of each Criterion listed in 11. above:

Provide justification for each Criterion in turn, clearly identifying to which Criterion the justification applies (see Annex II for guidance on acceptable forms of justification).

Ramsar criterion 6 – species/populations occurring at levels of international importance.

Qualifying Species/populations (as identified at designation):

Species with peak counts in winter:

Greylag goose , *Anser anser anser*, Iceland/UK, 3088 individuals, representing an average of 3% of the population (5 year peak mean for 1996/7-2000/01)
Ireland

Contemporary data and information on waterbird trends at this site and their regional (sub-national) and national contexts can be found in the Wetland Bird Survey report, which is updated annually. See www.bto.org/survey/webs/webs-alerts-index.htm.

13. Biogeography (required when Criteria 1 and/or 3 and /or certain applications of Criterion 2 are applied to the designation):

Name the relevant biogeographic region that includes the Ramsar site, and identify the biogeographic regionalisation system that has been applied.

a) biogeographic region:

Atlantic

b) biogeographic regionalisation scheme (include reference citation):

Council Directive 92/43/EEC

14. Physical features of the site:

Describe, as appropriate, the geology, geomorphology; origins - natural or artificial; hydrology; soil type; water quality; water depth, water permanence; fluctuations in water level; tidal variations; downstream area; general climate, etc.

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Soil & geology | igneous, sedimentary, sandstone |
| Geomorphology and landscape | lowland, hilly |
| Nutrient status | mesotrophic, oligotrophic |
| pH | acidic |
| Salinity | fresh |
| Soil | mainly mineral |
| Water permanence | usually permanent |

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Summary of main climatic features | Annual averages (Braemar, 1971–2000) (www.metoffice.com/climate/uk/averages/19712000/sites/braemar.html) Max. daily temperature: 10.5° C Min. daily temperature: 2.8° C Days of air frost: 103.3 Rainfall: 912.7 mm Hrs. of sunshine: 1210.3 |
|-----------------------------------|---|

General description of the Physical Features:

Loch of Lintrathen is a mid-altitude oligotrophic-mesotrophic loch occupying a glacial basin. It is used as a water supply reservoir.

15. Physical features of the catchment area:

Describe the surface area, general geology and geomorphological features, general soil types, general land use, and climate (including climate type).

Loch of Lintrathen is a mid-altitude oligotrophic-mesotrophic loch occupying a glacial basin, with a catchment area of 24.7 km². It is used as a water supply reservoir.

16. Hydrological values:

Describe the functions and values of the wetland in groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilization, etc.

Water supply

17. Wetland types

Human-made wetland, Inland wetland

| Code | Name | % Area |
|-------|---------------------------------------|--------|
| Tp | Freshwater marshes / pools: permanent | 8 |
| W | Shrub-dominated wetlands | 2.3 |
| 6 | Reservoirs / barrages / dams | 79.7 |
| Other | Other | 10 |

18. General ecological features:

Provide further description, as appropriate, of the main habitats, vegetation types, plant and animal communities present in the Ramsar site.

There is no emergent vegetation within this site, but occasional falls in water level due to water extraction from the reservoir can create large expanses of dwarf inundation vegetation. *Peplis portula* and *Eleocharis acicularis* characterise this vegetation. Conifer plantation and mixed woodland are common around the loch side. Common species here are larch, Scots pine and spruce. There is a wetland area at the north-western corner of the site which is a mosaic of marshy grassland, reedswamp, and alder and willow carr.

19. Noteworthy flora:

Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy (expanding as necessary on information provided in 12. Justification for the application of the Criteria) indicating, e.g. which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc. *Do not include here taxonomic lists of species present – these may be supplied as supplementary information to the RIS.*

None reported

20. Noteworthy fauna:

Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy (expanding as necessary on information provided in 12. Justification for the application of the Criteria) indicating, e.g. which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc., including count data. *Do not include here taxonomic lists of species present – these may be supplied as supplementary information to the RIS.*

Birds**Species currently occurring at levels of national importance:**

Species with peak counts in winter:

Whooper swan , *Cygnus cygnus*,
Iceland/UK/Ireland

85 individuals, representing an average of 1.4% of
the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-
2002/3)

Species Information

None reported

21. Social and cultural values:

e.g. fisheries production, forestry, religious importance, archaeological sites, social relations with the wetland, etc.
Distinguish between historical/archaeological/religious significance and current socio-economic values.

- Aesthetic
- Environmental education/ interpretation
- Non-consumptive recreation
- Scientific research
- Sport fishing

22. Land tenure/ownership:

| Ownership category | On-site | Off-site |
|------------------------------------|---------|----------|
| Local authority, municipality etc. | + | + |
| Private | + | + |
| Other | + | |

23. Current land (including water) use:

| Activity | On-site | Off-site |
|-----------------------------|---------|----------|
| Nature conservation | + | |
| Recreation | + | |
| Current scientific research | + | |
| Commercial forestry | | + |
| Fishing: recreational/sport | + | |
| Grazing (unspecified) | | + |
| Hunting: recreational/sport | | + |
| Transport route | | + |
| Domestic water supply | | |

24. Factors adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land (including water) use and development projects:

Explanation of reporting category:

1. *Those factors that are still operating, but it is unclear if they are under control, as there is a lag in showing the management or regulatory regime to be successful.*
2. *Those factors that are not currently being managed, or where the regulatory regime appears to have been ineffective so far.*

NA = Not Applicable because no factors have been reported.

| Adverse Factor Category | Reporting Category | Description of the problem (Newly reported Factors only) | On-Site | Off-Site | Major Impact? |
|-------------------------|--------------------|--|---------|----------|---------------|
| No factors reported | NA | | | | |
| | | | | | |

For category 2 factors only.

What measures have been taken / are planned / regulatory processes invoked, to mitigate the effect of these factors?

Is the site subject to adverse ecological change? NO

25. Conservation measures taken:

List national category and legal status of protected areas, including boundary relationships with the Ramsar site; management practices; whether an officially approved management plan exists and whether it is being implemented.

| Conservation measure | On-site | Off-site |
|---|---------|----------|
| Site/ Area of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI/ASSI) | + | |
| Special Protection Area (SPA) | + | |
| Site management statement/plan implemented | + | |
| Other | + | |

26. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:

e.g. management plan in preparation; official proposal as a legally protected area, etc.

No information available

27. Current scientific research and facilities:

e.g. details of current research projects, including biodiversity monitoring; existence of a field research station, etc.

Fauna.

Numbers of migratory and wintering wildfowl and waders are monitored annually as part of the national Wetland Birds Survey (WeBS) organised by the British Trust for Ornithology, Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee.

Environment.

Scottish Water, who manage the water supply, regularly take water quality samples.

28. Current conservation education:

e.g. visitor centre, observation hides and nature trails, information booklets, facilities for school visits, etc.

Scottish Wildlife Trust members are allowed access to a hide for bird watching

29. Current recreation and tourism:

State if the wetland is used for recreation/tourism; indicate type(s) and their frequency/intensity.

Activities, Facilities provided and Seasonality.

Fishing and access (e.g. for birdwatching) are controlled by bylaws within the site, and monitored by Scottish Water, SNH and the Scottish Wildlife Trust.

Unregulated sport shooting occurs on land adjacent to the site, and may cause disturbance to the birds. This activity will therefore be investigated and monitored by SNH.

30. Jurisdiction:

Include territorial, e.g. state/region, and functional/sectoral, e.g. Dept. of Agriculture/Dept. of Environment, etc.

Scottish Executive, Environment and Rural Affairs Department

31. Management authority:

Provide the name and address of the local office(s) of the agency(ies) or organisation(s) directly responsible for managing the wetland. Wherever possible provide also the title and/or name of the person or persons in this office with responsibility for the wetland.

Scottish Natural Heritage, 2 Anderson Place, Edinburgh, EH6 5NP

32. Bibliographical references:

Scientific/technical references only. If biogeographic regionalisation scheme applied (see 13 above), list full reference citation for the scheme.

Site-relevant references

- Duck, RW & McManus, J (1985) *Bathymetric charts of ten Scottish lochs*. University of Dundee, Tay Estuary Research Centre, Newport-on-Tay (TERC Report, No. 9)
- Musgrove, AJ, Pollitt, MS, Hall, C, Hearn, RD, Holloway, SJ, Marshall, PE, Robinson, JA & Cranswick, PA (2001) *The Wetland Bird Survey 1999–2000: wildfowl and wader counts*. British Trust for Ornithology, Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds & Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Slimbridge.
www.wwt.org.uk/publications/default.asp?PubID=14
- Murray, J & Pullar, L (1904) Bathymetrical survey of the fresh-water lochs of Scotland. Part III – Lochs of the Tay Basin. *Scottish Geographical Magazine*, **20**(1), 1-47
- Ratcliffe, DA (ed.) (1977) *A Nature Conservation Review. The selection of biological sites of national importance to nature conservation in Britain*. Cambridge University Press (for the Natural Environment Research Council and the Nature Conservancy Council), Cambridge (2 vols.)
- Tayside Regional Council (1994) *Backwater and Lintrathen Reservoirs byelaws*. Tayside Regional Council, Water Services Dept., Dundee
- Tayside Regional Council (1994) *Backwater and Lintrathen Reservoirs management rules*. Tayside Regional Council Water Services Dept., Dundee

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