

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:

Designated: 14 July 1988 / updated 12 May 2005

3. Country:

UK (Scotland)

4. Name of the Ramsar site:

Din Moss – Hoselaw Loch

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):

55 34 33 N

02 18 30 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: Galashiels

Hoselaw Loch lies at the extreme north-east corner of the foothills of the Scottish Cheviots to the south of the Tweed River, close to the border with England. It is 9 km south-east of Kelso in the former Border county of Roxburghshire.

Administrative region: Scottish Borders

8. Elevation (average and/or max. & min.) (metres): **9. Area** (hectares): 50.59

Min. 184

Max. 184

Mean 184

10. Overview:

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

This is a mid-altitude loch that is a wintering roost for Icelandic/Greenland pink-footed geese *Anser brachyrhynchus* and Icelandic 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*, 2054 individuals, representing an average of 2.1% of the population (Source period not collated)

Iceland (br), UK/ Ireland (w)

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	clay, alluvium, peat, sandstone
Geomorphology and landscape	lowland, hilly
Nutrient status	mesotrophic
pH	alkaline
Salinity	fresh
Soil	mainly organic
Water permanence	usually permanent

Summary of main climatic features	Annual averages (Edinburgh, 1971–2000) (www.metoffice.com/climate/uk/averages/19712000/sites/edinburgh.html) Max. daily temperature: 12.2° C Min. daily temperature: 5.1° C Days of air frost: 54.5 Rainfall: 676.2 mm Hrs. of sunshine: 1405.8
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General description of the Physical Features:

Din Moss – Hoselaw Loch lies on the northern slopes of the Cheviot Hills. Hoselaw Loch is a mid-altitude (c. 180 m a.s.l.) loch that is surrounded by Din Moss – an area of raised bog with associated lagg fens. It is one of the most complete examples of a raised mire in this area of Scotland.

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).

Din Moss – Hoselaw Loch lies on the northern slopes of the Cheviot Hills. Hoselaw Loch is a mid-altitude (c. 180 m a.s.l.) loch that is surrounded by Din Moss – an area of raised bog with associated lagg fens.

16. Hydrological values:

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

No special values known

17. Wetland types

Inland wetland

Code	Name	% Area
O	Freshwater lakes: permanent	26.4
U	Peatlands (including peat bogs swamps, fens)	60.1
Other	Other	13.5

18. General ecological features:

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

Aquatic vegetation of Hoselaw Loch is largely confined to emergent fringe communities characterised by *Littorella uniflora*, *Ranunculus hederaceus* and *Carex disticha*, but grading into transition fen on the south-west shore through *Carex rostrata* and on to a peaty raft with *Potentilla palustris*, *Epilobium palustre*, *Phalaris arundinacea* and occasional *Cicuta virosa* and *Ranunculus flammula* and *R. lingua*. This fen community grades into *Salix* carr and *Betula* at higher levels with *Caltha palustris* and *Agrostis stolonifera*, giving way further to the south-west to acid raised bog dominated by *Calluna vulgaris*, *Eriophorum vaginatum*, *Empetrum nigrum* and ten species of *Sphagnum* moss. Woodland of *Quercus*, *Betula* and *Salix* species dominate the edges of the bog on the north and south-west sides and there is significant conifer and *Betula* invasion of the bog surface taking place.

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.*

Nationally important species occurring on the site.**Higher Plants.**

*Cicuta virosa.***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

Pink-footed goose , *Anser brachyrhynchus*, 1180 individuals, representing an average of
Greenland, Iceland/UK 0.4% of the population (5 year peak mean
1991/92-1995/96)

Species Information**Nationally important species occurring on the site.****Invertebrates.***Nonagria typhae.***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

Scientific research

22. Land tenure/ownership:

Ownership category	On-site	Off-site
Non-governmental organisation (NGO)	+	
Private	+	+

23. Current land (including water) use:

Activity	On-site	Off-site
Nature conservation	+	
Tourism	+	+
Current scientific research	+	+
Arable agriculture (unspecified)		+
Livestock watering hole/pond	+	
Grazing (unspecified)	+	
Hunting: recreational/sport	+	+

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)	+	
Land owned by a non-governmental organisation for nature conservation	+	
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.

British Trust for Ornithology goose counts.

Whooper Swan monitoring - Swan Study Group.

Environment.

Hydrological monitoring of bog.

28. Current conservation education:

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

Informal and occasional use by Countryside Rangers and Scottish Wildlife Trust.

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.

Summer season tourist traffic on adjacent road.

Winter bird watching - locals, SWT/BTO members.

Occasional botanists in summer.

Occasional guided groups - all seasons but very limited.

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

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