

CITATION

LOCH OF ABOYNE
SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST
Aberdeenshire

Site code: 1025

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: NO537999

OS 1: 50 000 SHEET NO: Landranger Series 37
1: 25 000 SHEET NO: Explorer Series 405

AREA: 14.6 hectares

NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES

Biological : Freshwater habitats : Mesotrophic loch
: Vascular plants : Grass-wrack pondweed
Potamogeton compressus

DESCRIPTION:

The Loch of Aboyne is located 1km to the north-east of Aboyne, on Deeside.

The aquatic flora and fauna of the Loch of Aboyne, together with its associated reedbed and fen vegetation, is unusually rich. The loch contains one of the finest sub-merged floras in north-east Scotland, with eight species of pondweeds (*Potamogeton* species) present. Unusual communities of plant species occur, together with locally uncommon species such as spring quillwort *Isoetes echinospora*, thread-leaved water-crowfoot *Ranunculus trichophyllus* and the rare grass-wrack pondweed *Potamogeton compressus*. The main area of interest is the sheltered eastern arm of the loch.

The invertebrate fauna is known to include a high diversity of leeches and pond snails, which have been studied here. The loch holds modest numbers of passage and wintering wildfowl, regularly including wigeon, goosander and whooper swans, and 38 breeding species are recorded, many of them dependent on reed beds and marshes.

NOTIFICATION HISTORY

First notified under the 1949 Act in 1972.
Re-notified under the 1981 Act on 5 January 1984.

REMARKS

Measured area of site corrected (from 41.5 ha).