



## Scottish Natural Heritage

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### LOCH OF LINTRATHEN Site of Special Scientific Interest

#### SITE MANAGEMENT STATEMENT

Site code: 1034

West Lodge  
Airlie  
Kirriemuir  
Angus  
DD8 5NP

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#### Purpose



This is a public statement prepared by SNH for owners and occupiers of the SSSI. It outlines the reasons it is designated as an SSSI and provides guidance on how its special natural features should be conserved or enhanced. This Statement does not affect or form part of the statutory notification and does not remove the need to apply for consent for operations requiring consent.

We welcome your views on this statement.

#### Description of the site

Loch of Lintrathen is located approximately 6 km north-east of Alyth and 10 km west of Kirriemuir. It lies in a glacial basin within which there was a natural loch but this was enlarged in 1875 to form a reservoir and water supply for Dundee. Nevertheless it is a good example of a moderately enriched loch being still quite species rich in terms of its vascular plants, although because of the reservoir's draw down zone there is little emergent vegetation.

Internationally important numbers of wintering greylag geese use the loch as a roost. Although not notified features in their own right the loch also supports a wide range of wintering wildfowl which includes whooper swan, wigeon, teal, mallard and goosander.

Coniferous and mixed woodland around the loch and a wall reduce public access to the water's edge and help prevent disturbance to the wildfowl.

**Greylag goose**



### Current condition of the natural features

The site is currently classed as being in favourable condition for the presence of greylag geese. No monitoring of the mesotrophic loch feature has been carried out.

A summary of the latest site monitoring information is given below:

Natural features of Loch of Lintrathen SSSI	Feature condition (date monitored)	Other relevant designations
Greylag goose <i>Anser anser</i> , non-breeding	Favourable, maintained (March 1996)	SPA, Ramsar
Mesotrophic loch	Not yet monitored	

### Past and present management

The reservoir is managed as a water supply for Dundee by Scottish Water. The Backwater Reservoir further up Glen Isla is used as a storage reservoir but there are still fluctuations in water levels which can adversely affect plant life. Management of the loch as a water supply reservoir has helped to protect both the water quality and the bird life as a result of past restrictions on access to the loch shore, although there are currently signs that some eutrophication may have taken place.

Scottish Wildlife Trust also manages the loch as a nature reserve and has visitor facilities including 2 hides.

There is trout fishery on the loch with the season running from March to October.

### Objectives for Management (and key factors influencing the condition of natural features)

The long term goals for the site are to ensure that Loch of Lintrathen remains as a mesotrophic loch and a suitable roost site for wintering Icelandic greylag geese. The objectives for management are:

- 1. To maintain the mesotrophic nature of the loch and its plant communities by:**
  - ensuring that the management regime of the reservoir, as far as possible, sustains the plant communities on the open water and margins of the loch.
- 2. To maintain the loch as a suitable site for roosting greylag geese by;**
  - preventing disturbance between October and March on or near the loch.

We wish to work with the owners to protect the site and to maintain and where necessary enhance its features of special interest. We aim to carry out site survey, monitoring and research as appropriate to increase our knowledge and understanding of the site, its natural features and the effectiveness of management.

The EU Habitats and Birds Directives oblige Government to avoid, in SACs and SPAs,

the deterioration of natural habitats and the habitats of species, as well as disturbance of the species for which the areas have been designated, in so far as such disturbance could be significant in relation to the objectives of these Directives. The objectives above have been assessed against these requirements. All authorities proposing to carry out or permit to be carried out operations likely to have a significant effect on the European interests of this SSSI must assess those operations against the relevant Natura conservation objectives (which are listed on our website through the SNHi - SiteLink facility).

**Other factors affecting the natural features of the site**

There are not thought to be any other factors affecting the natural features of the site although it is possible that external sources of nutrients may be contributing to elevated levels of nutrients in the loch.

**Date last reviewed: 30 July 2010**