

## CITATION

### SHINGLE ISLANDS SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST Perth and Kinross

Site code: 1427

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: NN 962553, NN 980511, NN 973533 & NN 994487

OS 1:50,000 SHEET NO: Landranger Series 52  
1:25,000 SHEET NO: Explorer Series 386

AREA: 77.89 ha.

#### NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES:

**Biological: Freshwater habitats: River shingle/sand**  
**Invertebrates: Fly assemblage**  
**Birds: Breeding bird assemblage**

#### DESCRIPTION:

The islands and areas of river bank which make up the Shingle Islands SSSI are located to the north and south of Ballinluig on the rivers Tay and Tummel. The site comprises a series of extensive and dynamic river shingle areas in various stages of colonisation from bare shingle and sand to alluvial alder woodland, and includes old abandoned river channels and backwaters and mixed woodland. The site is important as one of the few areas in Perth and Kinross where river action deposits and re-arranges shingle and sand, and a wide range of successional vegetation communities develops. These communities are themselves important for a number of rare fly species and their breeding bird community.

The shingle and sand deposits are particularly notable for the large areas of species-rich grassland, and the largest area of floodplain or alluvial alder woodland in east Perth & Kinross; but habitats vary from bare sand and shingle, to more established neutral grassland, with areas of open water transition fens and open water in the backwaters around the islands. Floodplain alder woodland occurs on shingle and other alluvial soils. It usually consists of alder with varying quantities of other trees and shrubs such as ash, grey willow, hairy birch and wych elm. The ground flora is often species rich but also highly variable, with frequent species such as tufted hair-grass *Deschampsia cespitosa*, meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria*, and water avens *Geum rivale*.

There are a number of uncommon species of open calcareous habitats such as maiden pink *Dianthus deltoides*, shepherd's cress *Teesdalia nudicaulis* and meadow saxifrage *Saxifraga granulata*; some species are characteristic of montane areas such as hoary whitlowgrass *Draba incana* and northern bedstraw *Galium boreale* and others of coastal habitats such as thrift *Armeria maritima*, sea campion *Silene uniflora* and sea plantain *Plantago maritima*.

The insect fauna includes some rare and local flies associated with damp deciduous woodland and riverine shingle, including the crane flies *Tipula laetabilis*, and *Rhabdomastix laeta* and the stiletto fly *Spiriverpa lunulata*.

The islands are also used by a wide range of breeding birds characteristic of open river habitats including common sandpiper and common terns.

## NOTIFICATION HISTORY

Notified under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949: 1955 and 1972

Re-notified under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981: 19 April 1985

Reviewed under the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004: 1<sup>st</sup> March 2013

## REMARKS

Measured area of SSSI corrected (from 84.1 ha).

Shingle Islands SSSI is coincident with the Shingle Islands Special Area of Conservation which is designated for the following European habitat:

Habitat: Alder woodland on floodplains

Part of the SSSI overlaps with part of the River Tay Special Area of Conservation which is designated for the following European habitats and species:

Habitats: Clear-water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation and poor to moderate nutrient levels

Species: Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar*  
Brook lamprey *Lampetra planeri*  
River lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis*  
Sea lamprey *Petromyzon marinus*  
Otter *Lutra lutra*