



Scottish Natural Heritage

CAMERON RESERVOIR
Site of Special Scientific Interest

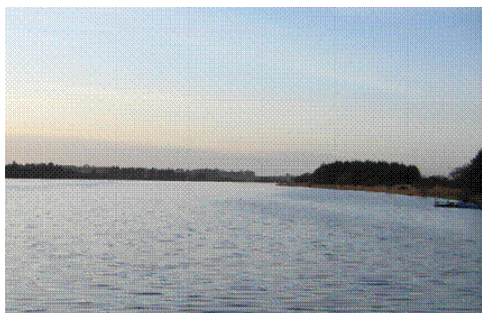
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SITE MANAGEMENT STATEMENT

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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.

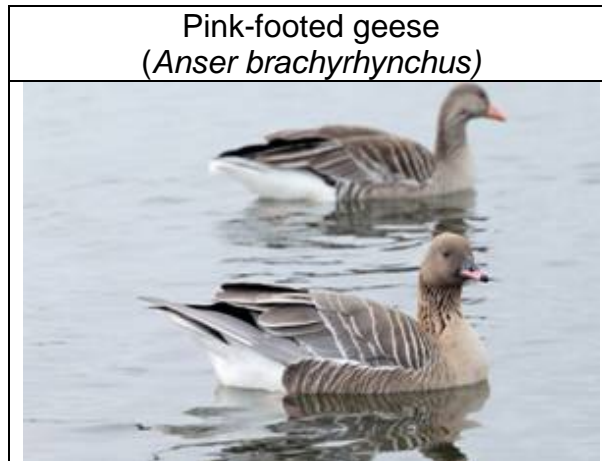
Description of the site

Cameron Reservoir Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) lies approximately 6 km southwest of St Andrews. The reservoir is roughly rectangular in shape and bound to the north with strips of grassland and scrub, and to the south with conifer plantation. The reservoir has been managed as a water supply since 1919. The site is a popular bird-watching location and also supports a stocked brown trout fishery.

The reservoir is the most important winter roost for pink-footed geese in north east Fife, regularly supporting more than 5% of the world population of this species. Regionally significant populations of other wintering waterfowl occur.

In recent years, there has been a downward trend in roost size at the reservoir. Monitoring of the geese has found that the mean peak count for 2004/05 to 2008/09 was 3,800 birds. This is much lower than the baseline figure of 8,000 and so the condition assessment for the SSSI feature is unfavourable declining.

Natural features of Cameron Reservoir SSSI	Condition of feature (and date monitored)	Other relevant designations
Pink-footed goose (<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>), non-breeding	Unfavourable, declining (November 2009)	SPA



Past and present management

The SSSI forms part of land owned by Scottish Water and is currently used for fishing by the St Andrews Angling Club, who keep the reservoir stocked with brown trout. The site has been managed as a public water supply since 1919.

The reservoir will become superfluous to water supply requirements in the near future, at which point its future management will be reconsidered. Fife Council, as Fife Regional Council, proposed to designate the site and adjacent land as a Local Nature Reserve and may still proceed with this proposal assuming they regain some form of legal tenure over the land.

This site is also a popular bird-watching venue, with one bird hide located on the north shore.

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

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

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 below 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).

- 1. Safeguard the site by ensuring compliance with all legal and other obligations.**
- 2. Avoid deterioration of the reservoir for its continuing use as a roost by internationally important numbers of pink-footed geese and other waterfowl by controlling disturbance and ensuring that water levels are maintained at appropriate levels.**

This site is a European conservation site and the Scottish Government and its agencies have an obligation to ensure that deterioration of the key features is avoided.

The maintenance of the site as a goose roost depends on:

- (1) Maintaining low levels of disturbance during the winter months and from before sunset to dawn each night.
- (2) Maintain sufficient water quality and high water levels to provide the geese with a secure roosting location.

Date last reviewed: 1 September 2010