

CITATION

DRUMMOND LOCHS
SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST
Perth and Kinross

Site code: 539

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: NN 853185, NN 867187

OS 1:50,000 SHEET NO: Landranger Series 58
1:25,000 SHEET NO: Explorer Series 368

AREA: 126.34 hectares

NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES

Biological: Birds: Greylag goose *Anser anser*, non-breeding
Woodlands: Lowland mixed broadleaved woodland
Non-vascular plants: Lichen assemblage

DESCRIPTION:

Drummond Lochs lies two kilometres north-west of Muthill, south of Crieff. The site consists of the Pond of Drummond, Bennybeg Pond and Drummond Wood. It is important for its wintering (non-breeding) greylag geese, lowland mixed broadleaved woodland and its lichen assemblage.

The Pond of Drummond and Bennybeg Pond offer safe roosting places for internationally important numbers of wintering greylag geese *Anser anser*, whose numbers are highest during autumn and spring passage. Although not part of the notified interest, the lochs also support populations of migratory as well as breeding birds typical of open water and associated wetlands. Breeding species include ducks such as wigeon, gadwall, and shoveler as well as other wildfowl such as curlew, snipe and redshank.

Drummond Wood, located to the west of the loch, consists mainly of pedunculate oak *Quercus robur*, which is very unusual in Tayside where most oakwoods are dominated by sessile oak *Quercus petraea*. This mainly even-aged oak woodland is located largely in the drier areas of the site. There is typically no understory and the ground flora is largely dominated by grassy species such as Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus* and creeping soft grass *Holcus mollis*; bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, and wood-sorrel *Oxalis acetosella* are also locally prominent.

By contrast, the wetter areas around the fringes of the loch and along the Bowat Burn are dominated by an ash-alder woodland. Ash is locally dominant with birch and alder both locally abundant and oak occasional. Hazel, willow and rowan are occasional in the understory. This type of woodland has a more open canopy and several glades. The varied ground flora includes bugle *Ajuga reptans*, lesser pond sedge *Carex acutiformis*, wood horsetail *Equisetum sylvaticum*, meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria*, yellow pimpernel *Lysimachia nemorum* and reed canary grass *Phalaris arundinacea*.

Drummond Wood and the parkland to the south of Pond of Drummond are of national importance for their rich and varied lichen flora. The woodland is situated in the valley of the Bowat Burn which is enclosed between two volcanic dykes to the north and south. The resultant high humidity together with the ancient semi-natural nature of the woodland and the number of mature trees, has enabled the diverse lichen flora to develop. There is an outstandingly high number of epiphytic species, with many characteristic of old woodland including *Lobarion* species, as well as a large number of rarities. The volcanic dyke itself also provides many niches for lichens including sunlit and shaded vertical faces, seepage tracks, underhangs and soil or moss ledges.

NOTIFICATION HISTORY

First notified under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949:
1972 as Drummond Pond SSSI

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

Notification reviewed under the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004:
15 December 2010

REMARKS

Measured area of site corrected (from 130.5 ha).

Part of Drummond Lochs SSSI forms part of the Upper Strathearn Oakwoods Special Area of Conservation (SAC) which is designated for the following habitat:

Habitat: Western acidic oak woodland

Part of Drummond Lochs SSSI is also part of the South Tayside Goose Roosts Special Protection Area (SPA) designated for the birds listed below:

Birds: Greylag goose *Anser anser*, non-breeding
Pink-footed goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*, non-breeding
Waterfowl assemblage, non-breeding