

CITATION

DUNALASTAIR RESERVOIR SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST Perth and Kinross

Site code: 557

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: NN 695585

OS 1:50,000 SHEET NO: Landranger series 51 and 42
1:25,000 SHEET NO: Explorer series 386

AREA: 232.00 hectares

NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES:

Biological: Fens: Open water transition fen
Lowland Grasslands: Fen meadow
Birds: Breeding bird assemblage

DESCRIPTION:

Dunalastair Reservoir, sometimes known as Dunalastair Water, lies approximately 20km west of Pitlochry on the River Tummel, between Loch Rannoch and Loch Tummel. The loch, created in 1935 as part of the Tummel hydro electric power scheme, is very shallow with the average depth of around 1.5m. It has numerous islands of reed, alder and willow with the indented loch margins comprising extensive unimproved wetland areas.

The fen fringing the loch is characterised by bottle sedge, *Carex rostrata*, bogbean, *Menyanthes trifoliata*, and marsh cinquefoil, *Potentilla palustris*. It forms a transition from open water through to drier fen meadow, a rare and decreasing habitat type in Britain. The site comprises several nationally and locally rare plants including an aquatic fern, pillwort *Pilularia globulifera*, in the shallow margins of the loch and coralroot orchid *Corallorhiza trifida* in the wet woodlands.

Dunalastair Reservoir is also notified for the wide range of bird species which breed in the wetland and woodland habitats around the loch, including tufted duck, other waders and wildfowl and small, water margin songbirds.

NOTIFICATION HISTORY

First notified under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949: 1976
Re-notified under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Act: 15 December 1983
Notification reviewed under the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004:
11 March 2010

REMARKS

Measured area of site corrected (from 242ha)

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

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

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