

## CITATION

### HARE MYRE, MONK MYRE AND STORMONT LOCH SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST

Perth and Kinross

Site code: 765

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: NO 187423, NO 207427

OS 1:50,000 SHEET NO: Landranger Series 53

1:25,000 SHEET NO: Explorer Series 381

AREA: 78.84 hectares

## NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES

**Biological: Fens: Open water transition fen**

**Vascular plants: Vascular plant assemblage**

**Birds: Greylag goose *Anser anser*, non-breeding**

**Geological: Quaternary geology and geomorphology: Quaternary of Scotland**

## DESCRIPTION:

Hare Myre, Monk Myre and Stormont Loch Site of Special Scientific Interest lies 3km south east of Blairgowrie. It is a composite site of two parts with Hare Myre and Stormont Loch to the west of the A923 and Monk Myre to the east. The site is important for its open water transition fens, assemblage of rare vascular plant species, wintering greylag goose population and geomorphology.

The site consists of three partially silted up shallow kettlehole lochs (formed by melting isolated blocks of ice) lying on fluvioglacial outwash sands deposited by glacial melt water along the valley of the River Ericht. It is important for the wide range of different types of fen habitats around the 3 lochs which have formed in the transition from open water to woodland. All three lochs have a fringe of emergent vegetation, mixed deciduous woodland and wet woodland. The western end of Stormont Loch in particular displays an impressive example of natural succession from open water to floating bog moss *Sphagnum* and developing willow carr which has formed in a shallow hollow in the corner of the loch. Elsewhere fen communities are dominated by a range of sedges and grasses including bottle sedge *Carex rostrata* and reed grass *Phalaris arundinacea*.

Amongst the rarer species in the vascular plant assemblage in these fen communities are the nationally rare Scandinavian small-reed *Calamagrostis purpurea*, a species first recognised in Britain in 1980, and the nationally scarce tufted loosestrife *Lysimachia thrysiflora* and needle spike-rush *Eleocharis acicularis*. In the old pines surrounding Stormont Loch and Hare Myre are two nationally scarce species at their only locations in east Perth and Kinross: twinflower, *Linnaea borealis* and creeping lady's-tresses *Goodyera repens*.

The population of greylag geese wintering in the Tay-Isla Valley has been one of the largest in the UK, and Monk Myre and Stormont Loch form part of a group of sites that provide this species with a safe day and night time roost. Although not part of the notified interest of the site, other species of wetland birds that make use of the site include great crested grebe, shoveler, mallard, teal, wigeon, pochard, tufted duck and goldeneye.

Stormont Loch is of national importance for its quaternary geomorphology. Deep deposits of silt have accumulated and have remained undisturbed since the last ice age. They provide a complete Lateglacial and Holocene pollen record supported by radiocarbon dates. Stormont Loch is considered a nationally important reference site for studies of the vegetation history and environmental history of eastern Scotland for the Late Glacial/Holocene period (i.e. the last 13,000 years). The pollen record is unusual in demonstrating a climatic oscillation equivalent to the Older Dryas. Stormont Loch also provides a complete pollen record during the Lateglacial Stadial and is therefore part of a network of important sites for interpreting the concomitant pattern of climatic change.

## **NOTIFICATION HISTORY**

First notified under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949: 1972

Re-notified under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981: 12 June 1985

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

11 February 2011

## **REMARKS**

Measured area of site corrected (from 80.5 ha).