

BREADALBANE DEER MANAGEMENT GROUP

Appendix 3 Designated Sites Summary

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Five Different Designations

Within the BDMG area there are five different types of designation:

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)

National Nature Reserves (NNR)

National Park

National Scenic Area (NSA)

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) represent the best of Scotland's natural heritage. They are 'special' for their plants, animals or habitats, their rocks or landforms, or a combination of such natural features. Together, they form a network of the best examples of natural features throughout Scotland, and support a wider network across Great Britain and the European Union.

Scottish Natural Heritage chooses sites after detailed survey and evaluation against published scientific criteria. SSSIs can include freshwater, and sea water down to the mean low water mark of spring tides, as well as land. At 31 March 2008, there were 1,456 SSSI's, covering a total area of 1,036,000 hectares or 12.9% of Scotland.

SNH designates SSSIs to protect the best of our natural heritage by making sure that decision-makers, managers of land and their advisors, as well as the planning authorities and other public bodies, are aware of them when considering changes in land-use or other activities which might affect them.

The Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 provides the legislative framework around which all SSSI sites are administered.

Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)

Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) are areas designated under the European Directive commonly known as the 'Habitats' Directive. Together with Special Protection Areas, which are designated under the Wild Birds Directive for wild birds and their habitats, SACs form the Natura 2000 network of sites. Most SACs on land or freshwater in Scotland are also underpinned by notification as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). The additional SAC designation is recognition that some or all of the wildlife and habitats are particularly valued in a European context.

National Nature Reserves (NNR)

The first National Nature Reserves were designated 50 years ago, and at that time they were the cornerstone of nature conservation policy, safeguarding sites of national conservation importance as well as providing interpretative material and allowing the public to enjoy these sites. All NNRs are now designated as SSSIs to strengthen their protection. There are currently 65 National Nature Reserves in Scotland.

National Park

The Dochart catchment, as well as a small area at the bottom of Glen Lochay, lies within the Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park (LLTNPA) area. The Cairngorms National Park lies to the north, and will be only ten miles or so distant when it's southern boundary is redefined.

National Scenic areas

National Scenic Areas are Scotland's only national landscape designation. They are those areas of land considered of national significance on the basis of their outstanding scenic interest which must be conserved as part of the country's natural heritage. They have been selected for their characteristic features of scenery comprising a mixture of richly diverse landscapes including prominent landforms, coastline, sea and freshwater lochs, rivers, woodlands and moorlands.

There are currently 40 NSA's in Scotland, covering a total land area of 1,020,500 ha and a marine area of 357,900 ha.

The Loch Rannoch And Glen Lyon National Scenic Area http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa_code=9137 covers some 48,000 ha, primarily within the BDMG area.

THE DESIGNATED SITES IN THE BREADALBANE DMG AREA**Large Upland Sites**

There are six large upland sites in the Deer Management Group. Together they extend to over 17,000 ha or 43,000 acres, 19% of the total BDMG area. All of these sites have underlying limestone or base-rich geology, giving rise to a potentially rich and diverse botanical interest, and setting them apart from other hills in the general area. Unfortunately, this base-rich geology and subsequent increased quality of grazing means that although higher numbers of grazing animals can potentially be supported, some of the features in all but one of these sites are considered to be overgrazed to a greater or lesser extent, with high value botanical interest often being confined to inaccessible ledges or burn-sides. All of these sites have an SSSI designation, several are also classified as SACs, and Ben Lawers is also a National Nature Reserve.

Schiehallion SSSI Favourable

Management Units: FE Lassintulloch (8), Crossmount (9), East Schiehallion (11)

Schiehallion SSSI http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa_code=1411 lies in the far north-east corner of the group area, draining the upper northern slopes of this famous mountain. At 871 ha, it is the smallest of these sites, and was selected as an SSSI for its range and quality of upland limestone (scarce in Perth and Kinross), especially the limestone pavement habitats (limestone outcrops on the lower to mid-slopes), and flushes (areas of groundwater seepage) and grassland on thin soils overlying the limestone. It also supports other upland habitats of interest and a number of uncommon and rare plants.

The feature on this site that relates to herbivore impact(subalpine calcareous grassland) is considered to be in Favourable Maintained condition, and this is not one of the five sites, below, subject to Joint Working.

Carn Gorm & Meall Garbh SSSI Recovering

Management Units: North Chesthill (15), Corie carie (4), Innerhadden (5), West Tempar (7), Glen Lyon Estate (14)

Carn Gorm And Meall Garbh SSSI

http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa_code=322

lies in the lower third of Glenlyon, straddling the Lyon and Rannoch catchment areas. It extends to 1930 ha and is designated for its range of montane habitats including arctic-alpine communities over calcareous schistose rocks including areas of tall herb vegetation and arctic-alpine willow scrub and rare plants on certain cliffs, calcium-rich areas where the ground water percolates through, or flows over, the soil surface (known as flushes), snowbed and montane and species rich heaths.

The SSSI includes a long crescent-shaped ridge, with a series of high summits lying close to its northern edge and broad ridges and converging valleys extending southwards to the upper limit of forestry plantations in Glen Lyon. Carn Gorm itself is a relatively isolated summit of 1,027 metres at the western site boundary and Meall Garbh (960 metres) is a broad central summit.

The ungrazed vegetation on the calcium-rich cliff ledges is particularly interesting and includes several nationally rare arctic-alpine plant species.

Most of the site comprises a diversity of more acidic montane communities with large areas of high plateau which is better vegetated and less rocky than similar high ground to the west. This high ground mosaic of communities is important as the most easterly of its kind in the climatic region of western Scotland, and the only area of high, quartzite plateau vegetation in the southern highlands.

The site also supports important colonies of scarce lichens.

Ben Heasgarnich SSSI Recovering

Management Units: Invermearnan South (33), Glen Lochay (34), SRUC Kirkton & Auchtertyre (40)

Ben Heasgarnich SSSI http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa_code=180

lies at the top of Glen Lyon and straddles the catchment boundary in to Glen Lochay. At 4064 ha, it is a very large site, and is internationally important for its relict montane Arctic-Alpine flora associated with the underlying calcareous rocks (Dalradian limestone and Ben Lawers mica-schists) found in these areas. The elevation of the SSSI ranges from approximately 250m in the south east corner of the site to a peak of 1076m (Ben Heasgarnich). Creag Mhor (1032m) is also part of the site.

It is of international importance for species-rich Matgrass grasslands, high altitude plant communities associated with areas of water seepage, mountain willow scrub, Alpine calcareous grasslands, plants in crevices in limestone rocks and tall-herb communities. The flora includes an exceptionally large number of Nationally Rare and Nationally Scarce

Ben Heasgarnich SAC Recovering

Management Units: Invermearnan South (33), Glen Lochay (34), SRUC Kirkton & Auchtertyre (40)

A smaller area of the site (2780 ha) has been designated as the Ben Heasgarnich SAC http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa_code=8201 under the Habitats and Species Directives.

Meall Ghaordie SSSI Recovering

Management Units: Cashlie South (32), Meggernie South (31), Boreland North (30)

Meall Ghaordie SSSI http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa_code=1137 lies between Glenlyon and Glen Lochay and extends to 1460 ha. The site was selected for its populations of alpine plants and the wide range of flora produced by the different rocks and soils on the hill. Meall Ghaordie is of particular note for the montane flora on its north facing cliffs including luxuriant but local tall herb communities. There are a number of uncommon plant species including several of national rarity. The calcareous flush vegetation (found in areas where calcium rich groundwater reaches the soil surface) and herb rich grasslands on the north side of Meall Ghaordie contrast with the vegetation to the south where the soils are much more acidic.

The site holds four Red Data Book (recorded in less than sixteen 10km squares in Great Britain) higher plant species, namely alpine bartsia, alpine fleabane, woolly willow, and rock speedwell, which are mainly restricted to rock ledges on site.

There are also at least 19 species of Nationally Scarce (recorded in less than 100 10km squares in Great Britain) plant present and 9 species of nationally scarce lower plants are found on the site.

Ben Lawers SSSI Favourable

Management Units: NTS Ben Lawers (27), NTS Tarmachan (28), Boreland North (30), Roros (25/26), South Chesthill & Inverinian (24)

At 5943 ha Ben Lawers SSSI http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa_code=185 is the largest designated site in the area. Its northern slopes drain in to the Lyon, the southern slopes directly in to Loch Tay. A small part of the site is within the catchment of the Lochay. There are 9 mountains over 3,000 feet within its boundary. Ben Lawers is also of great environmental significance and is one of the richest mountains in Britain for its arctic-alpine plants and habitats. It was primarily for these species and habitats that the SSSI was first notified.

The SSSI supports populations of 16 ferns and flowering plants, 4 mosses and 2 lichens of Nationally Rare or Scarce status. In addition, Ben Lawers is home for at least 14 lichen species that have been found nowhere else in Britain.

Ben Lawers SAC Unfavourable

Management Units: NTS Ben Lawers (27), NTS Tarmachan (28), Boreland North (30), Roros (25/26), South Chesthill & Inverinian (24)

Part of the site is also a Special Area of Conservation, Ben Lawers SAC, http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa_code=8202 on account of 5 threatened European habitats (High altitude plant communities associated with areas of water seepage, mountain willow scrub, Tall herb communities, alpine calcareous grasslands and plants associated with crevices in limestone rocks). Within the SSSI are a further 3 important habitats listed in the EU Habitats Directive but which, at Ben Lawers, are afforded a lower priority (Species-rich Mat-grass grassland, Blanket bog and alpine and sub-alpine heath). A range of other upland habitats including late snowbed communities, which flower later in the season, and acidic flushes (where groundwater seeps to the surface) are also present.

Finally Ben Lawers also carries the NNR designation, Ben Lawers NNR .

http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa_code=5005

The site lies within an area of nationally important landscape which attracts many thousands of visitors annually. The popularity of the Lawers and Tarmachan ranges to walkers led to the initiation of footpath restoration and maintenance work from 1980 onwards.

Meall na Samhna SSSI Recovering

Management Units: Auchlyne (37), Innischoarach (35), Boreland South (36)

Meall Na Samhna SSSI http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa_code=1139 extends to 2959 ha and drains in to two catchments areas, the Lochay and the Dochart. It is the only one of the Breadalbane sites which has the complete range of habitats from river bank and broadleaved woodland on the lowest ground, through scrub, heath and grasslands on the middle slopes to montane plant communities at the mountain tops. These plant communities include an exceptionally large number of nationally rare and nationally scarce plant species.

Meall na Samhna SAC Recovering

Management Units: Auchlyne (37), Innischoarach (35), Boreland South (36)

Meall na Samhna is of European importance for three different types of montane grassland and for the alpine plant communities of the cliffs and ledges of the upper slopes which include tall alpine herbs and sub-arctic willow scrub. On this account, a smaller area has been designated as the Meall Na Samhna SAC

http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa_code=8312 .

Woodland Sites

There are nine sites classified for their woodland interest or woodland flora in the BDMG area; seven broadleaved woodlands and two native pinewoods.

(a) Broadleaved Woodland Sites

Only four of these sites are potentially impacted by deer.

Glen Lyon Woods SSSI Unfavourable

Management Units: North Chesthill (15), South Chesthill & Inverinian (24)

Glen Lyon Woods SSSI http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa_code=714 lies in the bottom third of Glenlyon, straddling both sides of the

river and extending to 51.5 ha. It is designated for two reasons. Firstly it is an Ancient Semi-Natural mixed deciduous woodland with ash, alder and rowan - a restricted and threatened habitat within Britain due to clearance for grazing/afforestation. Secondly, it is an SSSI on account of its outstanding lichen flora.

The site features are deemed to be in Unfavourable condition. North of the Lyon, non-native species are the main factor in this, but south of the river, grazing impacts are certainly a contributing factor.

Glen Lochay Woods SSSI Recovering

Management Units: Boreland South (34), Boreland North (30)

Glen Lochay Woods SSSI http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa_code=712 , extending to 217.5 ha and located in the lower half of Glen Lochay is one of the largest areas of ancient deciduous woodland in Stirling Council area and contains a wide range of woodland types and associated habitats. A range of other habitats are present including river, moorland and wetland; leading to a considerable diversity of plant and invertebrate species.

The site is deemed to be in Unfavourable condition. However, SRDP funding is currently being sought to fence off a proportion of the area as part of an agreed strategy and it is therefore anticipated that the status of this area will improve without any serious implications for local deer management.

Carie And Cragganester Woods SSSI Unfavourable

Management Units: Loch Tay side (29)

Carie And Cragganester Woods SSSI http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa_code=316 is an upland oak dominated woodland which lies along side Loch Tay and is covered by multiple small ownerships. It is deemed to be in Unfavourable condition. Deer are likely to contribute to the lack of current regeneration, but it is the prominence of bracken within the site that is the most significant factor in its poor condition. Site management is currently being reviewed by the Forestry Commission.

Innishewan Wood SSSI Recovering

Management Units: Auchlyne (37)

Innishewan Wood SSSI, http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa_code=811 lying in the lower Dochart catchment and extending to 41.8 ha is designated for its deciduous woodland. It is one of the largest remaining areas of ancient deciduous woodland in the northern part of Stirling Council area. The wood is relatively undisturbed and occurs on a steep south-facing slope. A number of different semi-natural habitats are present including unimproved species-rich grassland, fen, wet flush communities and cliffs.

Although in Unfavourable condition, the area is deemed to be recovering, and in 2008 was subject to an extensive fencing scheme. There are therefore no implications for local deer management.

Two designated woodland sites at Keltneyburn and Finlarig Burn are deemed to be in Favourable condition and have no relevance to deer:

Keltneyburn SSSI Favourable

Management Units: The site lies to the east of Garth (13), but is in the ownership of a number of smaller properties who do not contribute to BDMG.

Part of Keltneyburn SSSI http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa_code=832 is notified for its upland mixed ash woodlands. This gorge woodland occurs as a narrow strip on Dalradian schists.

The ground flora of the woodland is species-rich with a large number of higher plant species of restricted distribution including the very rare tall-herb whorled Solomon's seal *Polygonatum verticillatum*.

Keltneyburn SAC Favourable

Management Units: The site lies to the east of Garth (13), but is in the ownership of a number of smaller properties who do not contribute to BDMG.

Part of Keltneyburn SSSI is designated as Keltneyburn SAC http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa_code=8280 which is designated for the habitat listed below:

Habitat: Mixed woodland on base-rich soils associated with rocky slopes.

The lower part of the SSSI overlaps the River Tay Special Area of Conservation.

Finlarig Burn SSSI Unfavourable

Management Units: Boreland North (30), Loch Tay side (29)

Finlarig Burn SSSI http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa_code=638 extends to 9.14 ha and lies immediately north of Killin at the western end of Loch Tay. It is a steep south facing ravine supporting remnant ancient deciduous woodland. The gorge is deep in places with a fast flowing stream - the Allt na Ceardaich – including several waterfalls and vertical cliffs.

River Lyon Bank SSSI Favourable

Management Units: This site lies just outwith the boundaries of the BDMG area.

The River Lyon Bank SSSI

http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa_code=1362 lies at the lower end of the River Lyon and extends to 1.2 ha, the smallest designated site in the area. River Lyon Bank is a narrow strip of mixed deciduous riverside woodland, with a relatively rich ground flora. It was selected as an Site of Special Scientific Interest on account of its population of the Nationally Rare higher plant Whorled Solomon's Seal.

(b) Native Pinewoods

There are two native pinewoods in this area.

The Black Wood of Rannoch SSSI Favourable

Management Units: Finnart (2), FE South Rannoch (3), Meggernie North (19)

The Black Wood Of Rannoch SSSI

http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa_code=218 extends to 1887 ha and is one of the most extensive and best known native pinewoods in Scotland. It lies within the Forestry Commission ground at South Rannoch, and all the designated features are deemed to be in a favourable condition. Active deer management within the woodland area will be central to this outcome. The area is fenced off from the wider group area, and this fence is viewed as being secure under most conditions.

The Black Wood of Rannoch SAC Favourable

Management Units: Finnart (2), FE South Rannoch (3), Meggernie North (19)

Part of the area, some 1100 ha, is also designated as an SAC, Black Wood Of Rannoch SAC http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa_code=8209 , also deemed to be in favourable condition.

Meggernie And Croch Na Keys Woods SSSI Recovering

Management Units: Meggernie North (19), Meggernie South (31)

Meggernie And Croch Na Keys Woods SSSI

http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa_code=1143 extends to 271 ha and comprises two separate relict Caledonian pinewoods situated on slopes both sides of Glen Lyon some 2-5 kilometres west of Bridge of Balgie. The wood at Meggernie forms part of the setting to Meggernie Castle and its designed landscape. Despite the Croch na Keys woods and a considerable part of the main Meggernie Wood being fenced off with successful regeneration evident, the site is deemed to be in Unfavourable condition. However, given the wider management objectives at Meggernie which include deer management and livestock, it is unlikely that any future exclosures will be attempted until the current areas can withstand browsing pressure. That point may well arise within the period of this Plan, but exact timing is somewhat subjective, and a degree of caution will be undertaken so as not to risk excessive damage to the regeneration achieved to date. There are two sizeable planted extensions to the east and west of the main wood at Meggernie.

Grasslands & Meadows

Four such areas exist within the BDMG area. Deer pressure is not considered to be an issue on any of them.

The River Dochart Meadows SSSI Favourable

Management Units: Lochdochart Estate (39)

The River Dochart Meadows SSSI

http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa_code=1359 , at 30.3 ha, is one of the most extensive areas of unimproved tall-herb meadow in Stirling Council area. The site shows a transition of habitats from nutrient-rich wetlands to nutrient-poor dry ground including important examples of open water, reedbed and sedgebed .

Morenish Meadow SSSI Unfavourable

Management Units: Loch Tay side (29)

The Morenish Meadow SSSI http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa_code=1187 extends to 36 ha and lies along the north shore of Loch Tay. It is deemed to be in Unfavourable condition, but this is due to an inappropriate grazing regime (undergrazing) and the advancement of scrub vegetation.

Fearnan Cowpark SSSI Recovering

Management Units: This site lies just outwith the BDMG boundary.

The Fearnan Cowpark SSSI http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa_code=628 lies to the west end end of Drummond Hill, and extends to 35 ha. Although in Unfavourable condition, it is deemed to be recovering.

Part of Keltneyburn SSSI http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa_code=832, total size 37.4 ha, is designated for its grassland interest. The grassland is an intricate mixture of different types and is designated for two of these.

Keltneyburn SSSI is also designated for its woodland interest (see above), and this interest is also classified as an SAC.

Geological Sites

Finally, within this area, there are two sites designated for their geological interest.

Falls of Dochart SSSI Favourable

Management Units: This site lies outwith the ownership boundaries of neighbouring BDMG members.

The Falls Of Dochart SSSI http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa_code=625 is situated within the lower reaches of the alluvial River Dochart in the village of Killin, and is a well-known and popular tourist attraction. It is 2 ha in size.

It is a Geological Conservation Review site, and a component of the Tay SAC.

The Crom Allt SSSI is a slightly larger site at 12.2 ha, and lies above Tyndrum at the top of the Dochart system. At Tyndrum a series of lead-zinc veins cut Dalradian metasediments. The deposits represent the largest base-metal vein mineralisation in the Scottish Highlands, and were worked for ore in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Crom Allt SSSI is also a Geological Review Site.

Dunalastair Reservoir Croftintygan Meadow

The River Tay SAC Favourable

Management Units: This site can potentially be affected by every member of the DMG.

The River Tay SAC http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa_code=8366 extends throughout the four catchments including Loch Tay, and includes all those waters to which migratory fish can access.

It is designated for the following species:

Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar*

Brook lamprey *Lampetra planeri*

Otter *Lutra lutra*

River lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis*

Sea lamprey *Petromyzon marinus*

In addition, the followed habitats are also a qualifying feature:

Breadalbane DMG**Designated sites**

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

The River Tay SAC extends to over 9000 ha throughout the Tay system, and is potentially the most all encompassing and powerful designation within the Breadalbane area.