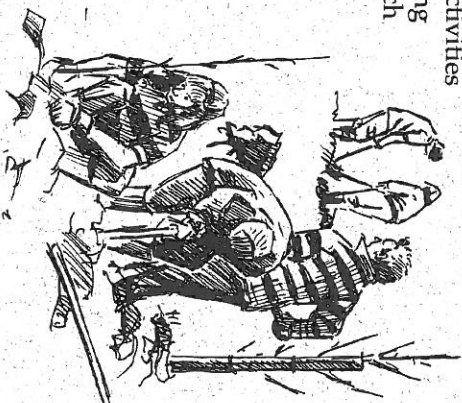


Management for Wildlife and People

The variety of wildlife to be seen on Loch Ardinning Wildlife Reserve derives from the diversity of habitats, which includes the loch and other water bodies, grassland, heather moorland, bracken and different types of woodland. These habitats support a wide variety of plants, insects and small invertebrates on which larger creatures such as mammals, birds, amphibians and fish feed. Over the years these habitats have been affected by various human activities, including grazing with sheep and cattle and establishment of plantations, including some non-native trees. Other natural changes are always occurring, often associated with changes in land use, an example being the spread of bracken.

To improve and, where possible, extend the most interesting or productive habitats, management activities are being undertaken such as planting native species of trees, local control of bracken and maximising the stretches of open water. Grazing by sheep is now being restricted to the southern part of the reserve in order to encourage further natural re-generation of trees such as Birch, Rowan and Scots Pine on the muir, with the intention of attracting bird species including Black Grouse.

Other management activities are aimed at improving access for visitors, such as maintaining paths and stiles.



Volunteer Day -
can include activities
such as tree planting

Loch Ardinning Wildlife Reserve belongs to the Scottish Wildlife Trust and is managed by a local Management Group.

Volunteer days involving practical work are held on the first Saturday of every month (except January), usually meeting at the dam at 1030 hrs. All helpers will be welcome - you do not need previous experience.

If you would like more information on the reserve or about the SWT locally, or would like to help with practical or other management work, please contact the Convenor of the Management Group, 6, Ninian's Rise, Kirkintilloch, Glasgow, G66 3HU Further details of what you can see at different times of the year are given in Nature Trail leaflets available free (s.a.e. please).

How to get there:

The reserve is located 1.5 miles South of Strathblane and can be accessed off the A81 road (Glasgow to Aberfoyle).

Grid ref: NS 564779

Ordnance Survey Sheet: 64



The Scottish Wildlife Trust is the leading charity conserving wildlife and natural environment in Scotland. It is a partner in The Wildlife Trusts, a network of 47 Wildlife Trusts covering the UK and managing over 2000 wildlife reserves. The SWT relies heavily on donations, legacies and membership income. Please join us and support our work - the need is urgent.

*For further information and details
of membership, please contact:*

Scottish Wildlife Trust, Cramond House,
Cramond Glebe Road, Edinburgh EH4 6NS
Tel: 0131 312 7765 Fax: 0131 312 8705

Scottish Wildlife Trust Charity
Registration No. SC 005792



Illustrations by G Cathcart,
H Munroe, D Powell
& E Stewart

Scottish
Wildlife Trust



Welcome to
Loch Ardinning
Wildlife Reserve
by A81, 1 1/2 miles South of Strathblane, Stirling



Protecting Wildlife for the Future

Welcome to Loch Ardinning Wildlife Reserve

Loch Ardinning and the adjacent Muirhouse Muir were gifted to the Scottish Wildlife Trust by Dr. Robert Ker in December 1988.

The loch and moor have been comparatively undisturbed by man for many years and, together with nearby Muggdock Country Park, form a valuable tract of wilderness surrounded by land which is coming under increasing pressure.

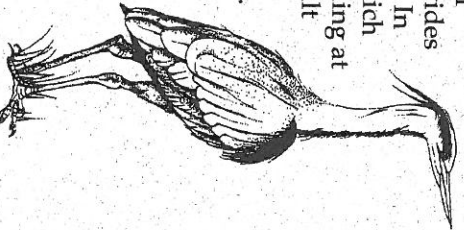
The Loch

The broader south-east part of Loch Ardinning is a natural loch in a glacially-formed hollow. This provides open water for many species of duck and other waterfowl, such as the wild Whooper Swans which often come here for the winter from their breeding grounds in Iceland.

The narrow north-western arm of the loch was created artificially by the building of a dam across the outflow stream in 1796. The dam was raised and widened around 1840. It was further rebuilt in 1991. This shallow, sheltered part of the loch supports a rich variety of plant and invertebrate life. Together with the adjacent area of Willow "carr" (wet woodland) it provides vital food and cover for nesting birds. In the carr can be found many plants which prefer wet or damp conditions, including at least four species of orchids. As a result of drainage these wetland plants are becoming increasingly rare elsewhere.

In the water of the loch and by its edge are a number of other uncommon plants such as the Water Lobelia which can be found flowering in profusion in July.

Grey Heron - a regular visitor to the reserve

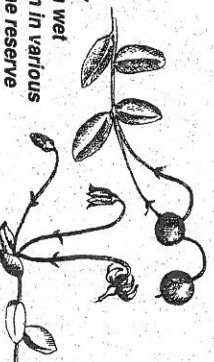


Moorland

Muirhouse Muir has seen a certain amount of management of the heather in former times and is subject to some grazing by sheep, but it remains the largest area of good quality moorland in the immediate area. Several typical, but again increasingly rare plants, are found on the moor, such as Cranberry, Bog Myrtle and Bog Asphodel.

The area supports a wide variety of birds such as Curlew, Snipe, Red Grouse, Linnet, Whinchat, Stonechat, Skylark and Grasshopper Warbler.

Cranberry - found on wet sphagnum in various parts of the reserve

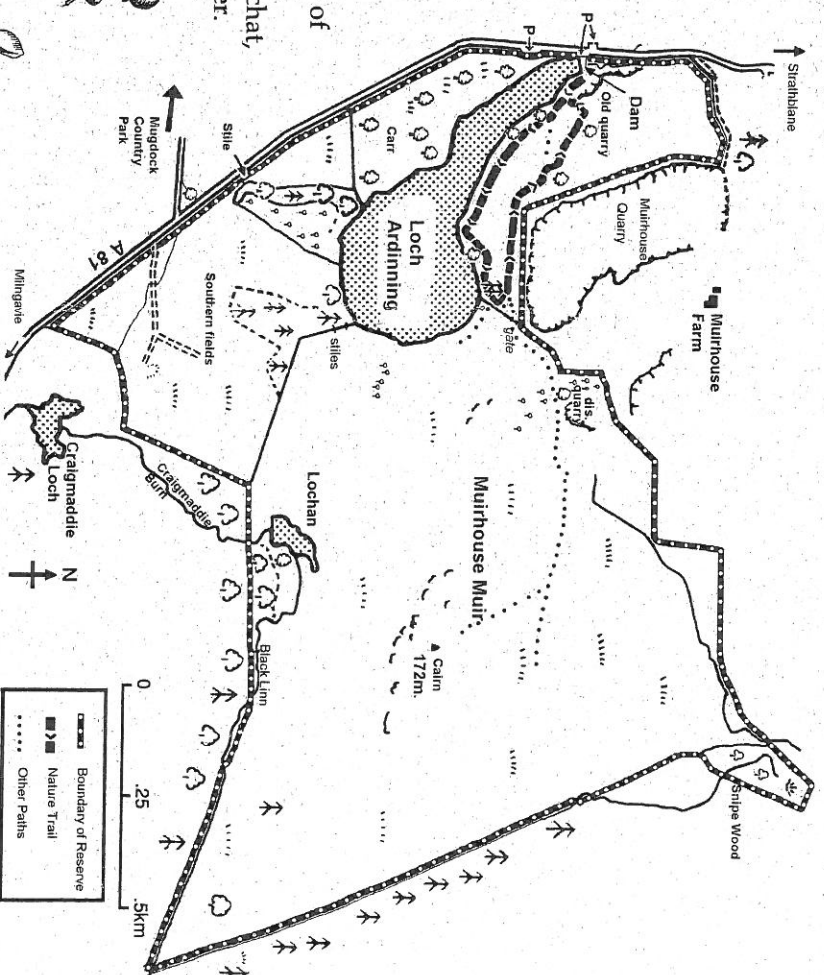


Access and Nature Trail

Access is open to the public, although we ask that you keep to the paths during the spring and early summer when most birds are breeding.

There is a nature trail, approx. 1.5km in length, following a marked circuit starting at the east end of the dam and following the northern shore of the loch. Follow the numbered posts and way-markers.

Dogs should be kept on a lead in areas where sheep are grazing.



Parking is available at points marked **P** on the map. Please take extreme care crossing or walking alongside the busy main road.

To the north-east of the loch there is a gate in the fence beyond which a path leads up the hill, past some recent plantings of native trees and onto the muir. Further along this path, by cutting off to the right it is possible to reach a cairn marking the highest point on the reserve, at 172m above sea level. On clear days fine views can be obtained across to the Campsie Fells and down the Blane Valley towards the Luss Hills and Ben Lomond.