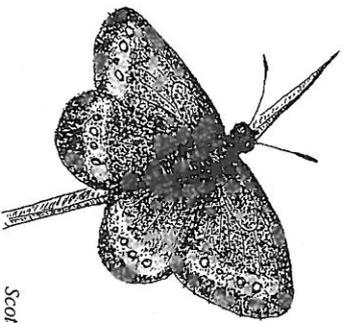


Management

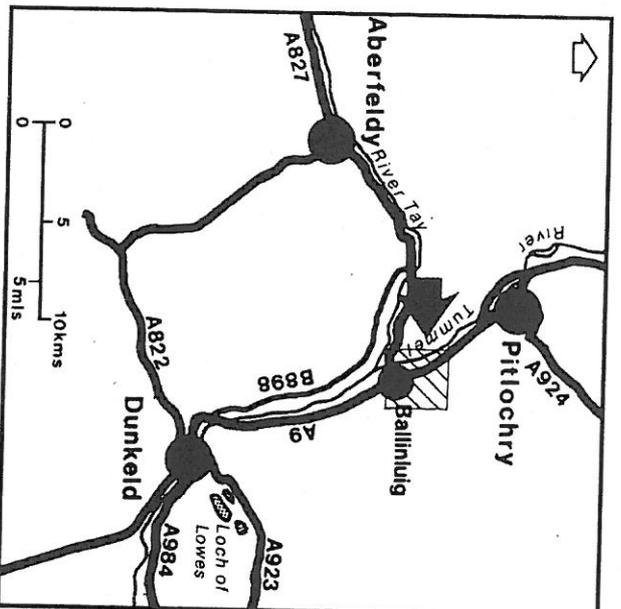
Conservation management is designed to interfere as little as possible with the natural geomorphological and successional processes. Such management as is undertaken involves mainly the control of non-native tree and shrub species, especially sycamore and Japanese knotweed, both of which have the potential to spread and dominate at the expense of the native flora and fauna.



Scotch argus

How to get there

Ballinluig Island can be reached from the A827 approximately 1 km west of Ballinluig. There is a small parking area 50 metres along the old road running north from the A827 immediately west of the Tummel roadbridge. Please ensure that you do not obstruct the entrance to the adjoining joiners' premises. From the old road, immediately opposite this workshop, there is a waymarked path to Ballinluig Island. It rises up through conifer plantations after crossing a small stone bridge (if you follow the informal path along the river you will not easily find the reserve!). Please take care - the path to the reserve is steep and narrow in places.



Grid Ref: NN972534 OS Sheets: 52/53

Scottish Wildlife Trust

The Scottish Wildlife Trust is Scotland's leading voluntary organisation conserving Scotland's wildlife and natural environment. As a charity, we rely heavily on donations and membership subscriptions. Please join us and support our work - the need is urgent.

For further information and details of how to join, please contact:

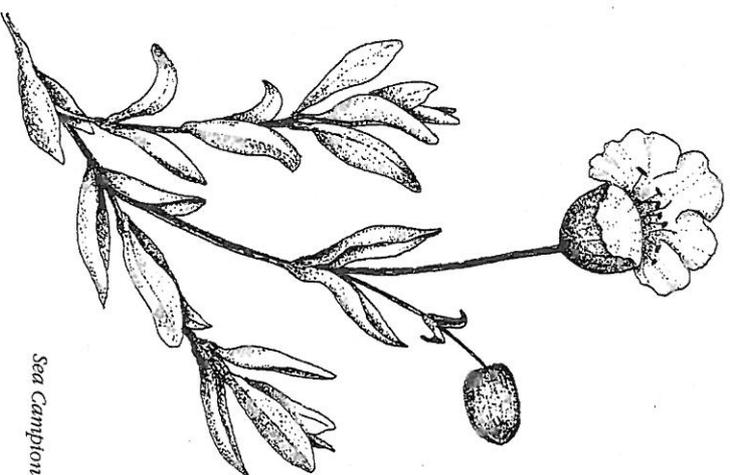
Scottish Wildlife Trust, Cramond House,
Kirk Cramond, Cramond Glebe Road,
Edinburgh EH4 6NS
Tel: 0131 312 7765 Fax: 0131 312 8705



All illustrations by R. Seath

Welcome to
**Tummel Shingle Islands
Wildlife Reserve**

PERTSHIRE



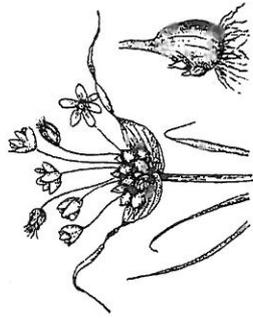
Sea Campion

**SCOTTISH
WILDLIFE TRUST**

Welcome to Tummel Shingle Islands Wildlife Reserve

The Tummel Shingle Islands reserve consists of a number of shingle islands created by the River Tummel where it meanders across its gravelly valley floor between Pitlochry and Ballinluig. For most of the year the islands are linked to the riverbank. It is only at times of flood, when the water level in old backwaters rises, that they become true islands.

The reserve represents one of the rarest habitats in Great Britain - elsewhere, shingle islands have been progressively destroyed by man's actions.



Field Garlic

Ballinluig Island covers some 23 hectares and lies on the west bank of the River Tummel approximately 1 km north of the A827 bridge over the Tummel. The Trust became involved in the management of the island in 1985 by the generous agreement and co-operation of the owners, Atholl Estates.

Plants

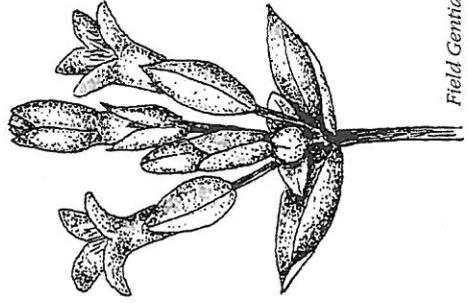
Shingle Islands are relatively unstable features as rivers are constantly shifting their course. As a result, the reserve's habitats range from open shingle, through the successional stages of open grassland and scrub, to birch and Scots pine woodland with some juniper and alder. This variety is reflected in a great diversity of higher plants, more than 380 so far recorded.

The bare shingle is first colonised by plants which need little soil and are able to withstand flooding; these include sea campion, northern bedstraw and Smith's pepperwort. At a later stage the shingle has a moss and lichen dominated vegetation, together with some higher plant species such as field gentian and the locally rare small cudweed and shepherd's cress.

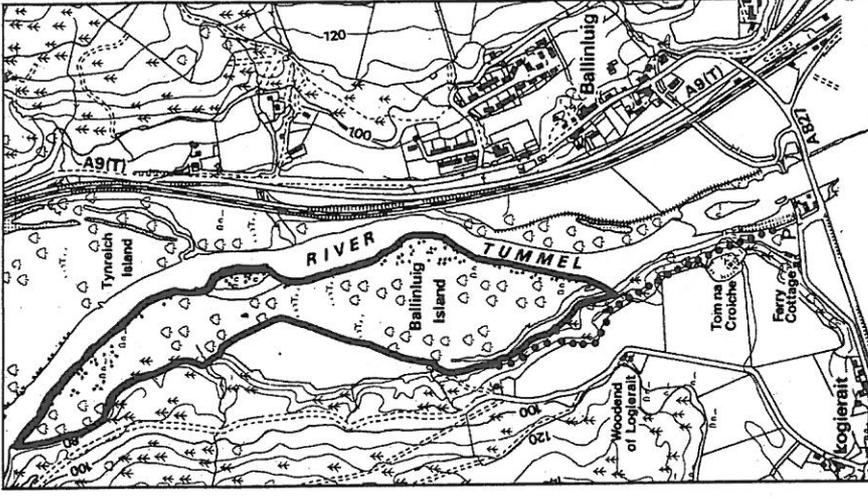
Gradually particles of soil and rotting vegetation provide the nutrients required for grassland species. In these areas plants such as lady's bedstraw, thyme, restharrow, bulbous buttercup, common violet and yarrow are found, together with the nationally scarce maiden pink and field garlic.

Ultimately, the succession develops until it reaches mature woodland, mainly birch but with some Scots pine. Much of the vegetation beneath the woodland is grass-dominated but also includes locally scarce species such as lesser meadow-rue and bird's nest orchid.

The other major habitats are those associated with the old water-filled channels or backwaters. These consist of alder woodland with species such as reed canary grass, bottle sedge and the locally rare lesser marshwort.



Field Gentian



Animals

Common gulls, ringed plover and common terns have bred on the reserve although no successful breeding has been recorded in recent years. Other birds recorded include common sandpiper, redshank, oystercatcher and lapwing.

Butterflies such as the Scotch argus and common blue feed on the many flowering plants in the reserve and many species of moths, spiders, beetles and craneflies have been recorded.