



**Clackmannanshire
Council**

www.clacks.gov.uk

Comhairle Siorrachd
Chlach Mhanann

Gartmorn Dam Country Park Management Plan 2019-2024



What is a Country Park?

Country Parks are relatively small areas, readily accessible to the public, which are actively managed to provide opportunities for people to enjoy the countryside and informal open-air recreation. The range of facilities provided varies from site to site, but all Parks are supported by built facilities and by opportunities to picnic or walk and by programmes of organised events. They are also supported by a Ranger Service to promote visitor enjoyment and understanding of their natural qualities. The majority of Country Parks are owned or managed by Local Authorities with the support of Scottish Natural Heritage. Clackmannanshire Council is responsible for the management of Gartmorn Dam Country Park insofar as the council remit allows.

Gartmorn Dam is Clackmannanshire's only Country Park and is easily accessible for all Clackmannanshire's residents. It is within an hours drive for half the Scottish population.

Introduction to Management Plan

This Management Plan continues on from the Management Plan written by Clackmannanshire Ranger Service in 2002. Since the 2002 plan was written there have been quite a few changes that have had an impact on Gartmorn Dam. These changes are discussed throughout the current plan. This new Management Plan is designed to reflect the reduction of Ranger Service and other council staff. It is also designed to meet the criteria for the Green Flag Award. <http://www.greenflagaward.org.uk/>.

The plan will be reviewed annually, with rolling extensions and any changes will be added to the online version.

The Council welcomes Community Groups and Volunteers and would ask that any work or other activities that take place at Gartmorn Dam are done in consultation with the Council and comply with the current Management Plan. This is to ensure that there is a combined approach to managing the Biodiversity and Heritage of the Country Park.

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Vision

To actively manage and improve Gartmorn Dam Country Park for the benefit of people and biodiversity

Aims

Conservation

To conserve and improve the biodiversity and heritage of Gartmorn Dam Country Park.

Health

To improve the mental and physical health of those accessing Gartmorn Dam Country Park.

Landscape

To enhance the existing levels of landscape value and amenity value.

Recreation

To provide a place to enjoy formal and informal recreation for all ages and user groups. To ensure that activities that take place at Gartmorn Dam Country Park fit with the ethos of a Country Park and Local Nature Reserve.

Community Involvement

To engage with the local, wider community and user groups.

Education

To provide quality experiences for formal and informal education

Cultural

To protect and conserve all features of cultural significance and heritage value.

Sustainability

To ensure policies, management practices and operations accord with sustainable principles by meeting today's needs, without compromising the needs of future generations.

Legal

To ensure that the site management works comply with all legal obligations and that access takers do so within the Land Reform Act (Scotland) 2003.

Maintenance

To ensure that a maintenance programme is in place to reinforce the aims of the Country Park and meet visitor expectations.

Safety

To ensure the safety of visitors and staff working on the site and fulfil the council's duty of care.

Marketing

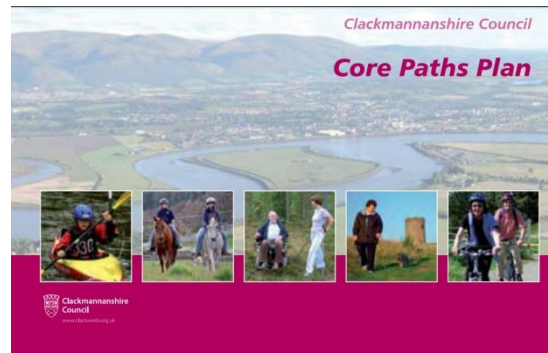
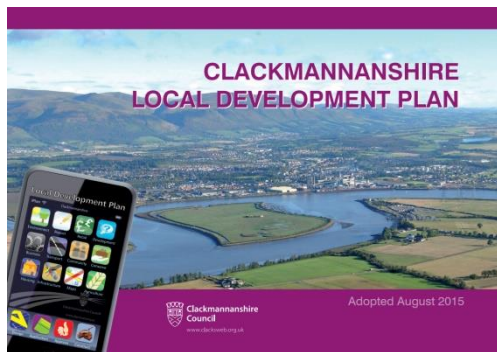
To positively promote Gartmorn Dam Country Park to local residents and potential visitors to the area.

Wider Policy Context

Council Priorities

- The area has a positive image and attracts people and businesses;
- Our communities are more cohesive and inclusive;
- People are better skilled, trained and ready for learning and employment;
- Our communities are safer;
- Vulnerable people and families are supported;
- Health is improving and health inequalities are reducing;
- The environment is protected and enhanced for all;
- The Council is efficient, effective and recognised for excellence

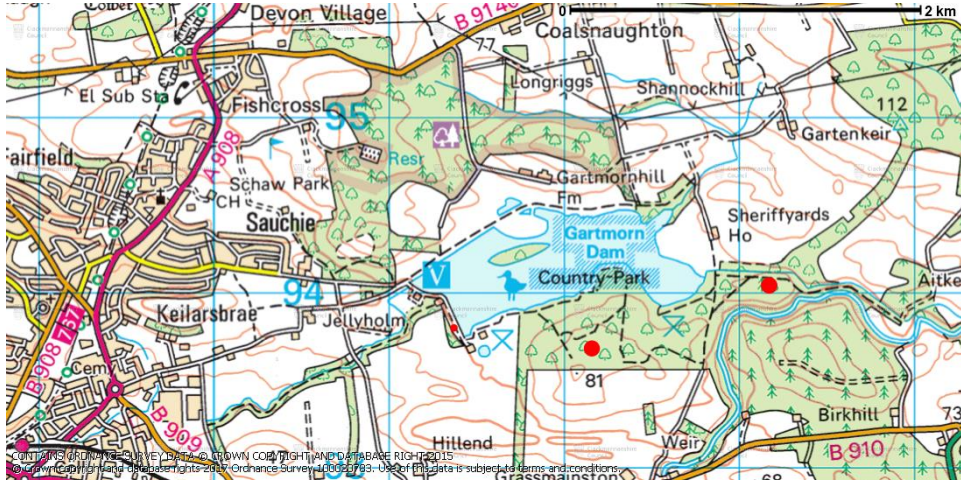
The Management Plan supports the following Council policies and strategies
Local Development Plan Policy SC11 Transport Networks specifies that “the Core Path network will be safeguarded, promoted and enhanced”



The plan supports the Council’s statutory Core Path Plan required under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003, in particular the criteria that core paths should be capable of supporting all abilities, and that paths should be free of significant maintenance issues under the Council’s Biodiversity Action Plan pursuant to the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004, “people will be able to access and learn about their local biodiversity and will want to protect and enhance it”.

The Council’s Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy pursuant to our Public Body Duties under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 contains targets to increase active travel and reduce the environmental impact of travel

Site Description



Location

Latitude 5608'N, Longitude 344'W, Grid ref: NS 920943

The total area involving management by Clackmannanshire Council is 120.21ha (including footpaths and cycleways within the Country Park boundary). Of this total, 28.12ha is outside the designated Country Park boundary and 32.07ha has been acquired since 1990.

Country Park Contacts

Clackmannanshire Council
Kilncraigs
Greenside Street
Alloa
FK10 1BA
01259 452000
rangers@clacks.gov.uk

Reservoir – Scottish Water
6 Castle Drive
Dunfermline
KY11 8GG
08456018855

Status

- **Country Park (87ha)** – designated in 1982
<https://www.clacks.gov.uk/culture/gartmorndam>
- **Site of Special Scientific Interest (68.79ha)** – notified in 1971 for importance to overwintering wildfowl.
- Re-notified in 1986 for the eutrophic loch and open water transition fen features
- In 2015 it was stated by Scottish Natural Heritage to be in unfavourable declining condition due mainly to the closure of the Lade and the change in the water condition as a result.
http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa_code=678
- **Local Nature Reserve (43.58ha)** – designated in 1980.
- **Local Landscape Area (1175ha).**
<https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/safeguarding-protected-areas-and-species/protected-areas/local-designations/local-landscape-areas>

Access

Facilities – managed by Clackmannanshire Council

- Car parking – 3 main car parking areas and an overflow car park
- Extensive multi use path network which radiates out from the Dam
- Various benches – seating and picnic
- BBQ area
- Sunken Garden (Old filter beds which are now an attractive garden area)

Other Facilities located within the Country Park

- Café (with toilets) adjacent to the Dam. It was formerly a visitor centre and fishery lodge, but was closed in 2012. In 2017 it was taken over by “Dam Good Coffee” and is currently a coffee shop. The owners are keen to be involved in the park.

Publications

- Management Plans (1980, 1990, 2017)
- Clackmannanshire Core Paths Plan
<http://www.clacks.gov.uk/mapping/corepaths.php>
- Gartmorn Dam Country Park Leaflet (last updated 2013)
- Ramblers Scotland Medal Routes
<http://www.ramblers.org.uk/~media/Files/Scotland%20microsite/MedalRoutes/MRoutes%20jpegs/RP%20Gartmorn%20Dam2.jpg?la=en>
- Articles in Forth Naturalist and Historian journal
- Included in the Clackmannanshire Bird Atlas
- Cowpark Wood Management Plan
- The Fieldfare Trust has created a photographic trail of Gartmorn Dam to allow potential visitors to look at the paths before they come. It can be found at http://www.phototrails.org/default.cfm?walk=Gartmorn-Reservoir&page=trail&walk_id=52
- Clackmannanshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan
- A Tale of Two Estates, Linn Mill and Lade Reports – innerforthlandscape.co.uk

Management

Gartmorn Dam Country Park is currently managed by Clackmannanshire Council. The Council are responsible for:

- Management of Gartmorn Dam as a Country Park within council remit
- Updating / writing the Management Plan
- Co-ordinating the delivery of the Management Plan
- Giving advice to user groups
- Patrolling the paths as per the path inspection regime
- Organising repairs and improvements
- Promoting responsible access.

Much of the Country Park is a SSSI. Consequently, the Management plan should be approved by SNH and annual consents applied for operations taking part within the SSSI.

Safety Provision

- The Rangers are First Aid trained and carry a First Aid kit as part of their day to day working.
- Rangers also carry throwing buoys when out on patrol or with groups.
- Gartmorn Dam Country Park has a risk assessment which is updated annually.
- There are life buoys situated around the dam. These are inspected by Waste Services.
- There is information in the public domain about safe and responsible access www.outdooraccess-scotland.com Leaflets are also available in the coffee shop and via interpretive panels

History

Agriculture

In the 17th century the Gartmorn area was part of both the Alloa and Clackmannan estates owned by the Erskines and the Bruces. The majority of the population lived in small farm towns and the marshy land of Gartmorn was worked under a runrig system of agriculture. Long narrow strips were ploughed into a ridge and furrow pattern. Signs of this can be seen as regular bumps on the south shore path.

Most of the surrounding area of the Country Park and two areas within its boundary have been used for grazing and for arable crops. Within the Park, the Island field and the Meadow were farmed up until 1995 and the late 1980's respectively. Clackmannanshire Council leased the Island Field in 1995 as part of a wetland creation project and it is now owned by Clackmannanshire Council.

Coal Mining

Towards the end of the 16th century, the Erskines and the Bruces began to invest in coal mining. By 1707 the Alloa Coal Field, owned by John Erskine, the 6th Earl of Mar, was frequently flooded. An engineer recommended the construction of a series of pumps driven by a large water wheel. Neither the Brothie or Sauchie burns had the water power so a lade and a weir were put in place to divert water from the Black Devon river at Forestmill. Both these structures can still be seen. More information on the lade can be found at the innerforthlandscape.co.uk – 'Craigrie and Gartmorn Lade System'.



The Dam was built to drain the mines in Sauchie but extensive mining has also taken place within the Country Park.

Clackmannan County Council (now Clackmannanshire Council) first officially acknowledged the ecological and recreational value of Gartmorn dam and the surrounding area through an agreement with Mid Scotland Water board (now Scottish Water) in 1973. Two areas of woodland – Cowpark Woods (30ha) and Headwall Wood (1ha) were purchased by the council in the early 1990s.

It was anticipated that the popularity of the area for recreation would increase and that it had great potential for outdoor learning, particularly in terms of natural, social and industrial history.

A Management Plan was written and a Ranger Service set up to ensure the appropriate management of the site:

- for recreation and education,
- to minimise conflict between various activities,
- to protect the landscape value of the area
- as a habitat for wildlife

Significant Buildings and Man Made Structures

- Pump House (1891) sandstone building housed the engines which pumped water to the filter beds. Used as a visitor centre from 1980 – 1996. (leased and maintained by Clackmannanshire Council)



Former toilet block (left) and pump house (right).

- Valve House (owned and maintained by Scottish water)
- Sluice Tower (owned and maintained by Scottish Water)
- Visitor Centre now leased by the council to 'Dam Good Coffee' café
- Old Toilet Block (leased and managed by Clackmannanshire Council)



Former Visitor Centre, now café - Dam Good Coffee.

- Sunken Garden – this area occupies the site of the former filter beds and is now part of an attractive garden area.



Sunken Garden – former filter beds for reservoir.

- Run-Rig system used in past is shown by the regular bumps in the South shore paths
- Bings on the south shore are the remains of mines closed in the 1870s.

- Sherrifyards Colliery site operated between the late 1800's to 1921. On the North Shore Path there are the ruins of the colliery (see picture below for when the colliery was in action).



Sherrifyards Colliery when it was in use.

- The north shore path was the old mineral railway and a railway sleeper from this time marks the start of the path.
- Cowpark Wood dates from the 18th century and is a broadleaf woodland.
- Disused settling pond from old water treatment works, with three brick lined pits adjacent to it.
- Partially Ruined brick tower. Disused ventilation shaft for Jellyholme pit.
- Sherrifyards House (private ownership) and outbuildings (owned by Gartenkeir Farm).
- Gartmorn Dam House - in private ownership.
- Gartmorn Hill farm - in private ownership.
- Fenced compound area by Sunken Garden

Clackmannanshire Council is responsible for three of the buildings under the Lease with Scottish Water. The new Visitor Centre is leased to Dam Good Coffee. The maintenance of the other two (Old Toilet Block and Pump House) is the responsibility of Clackmannanshire Council (Strategy and Customer Services). The current state of the buildings should be investigated and this will determine whether any work is required to safeguard the future state of the buildings.

Conservation and Heritage

Soils

- The majority of soils around Gartmorn Dam are till soils produced from underlying (mainly sandstone) sediments.
- Others are alluvial or raised beach deposits.

Hydrology

- The water body of Gartmorn Dam covers an area of 67.6 ha and has a capacity of 1, 665, 581, 184, litres (440m gallons).
- The Dam outflows into the Brothie Burn. There is also capacity for outflow into an overflow channel at the most westerly point of the Dam.
- Originally inflow was from the lade (east end of the dam), which took water off the Black Devon. This was closed in 2002 and the dam now fills through run off and direct precipitation, as well as a small burn to the North East of the Dam.
- Gartmorn Dam is a typical lowland eutrophic loch. There are concerns that it is becoming overly enriched with nutrients coming from the surrounding catchment area. This is having a detrimental effect on the biodiversity of the water body, particularly the aquatic plant life.
- Re-opening the lade would be likely to decrease the magnitude of this problem, and there have been ongoing talks with Scottish Water regarding this. It is likely to be costly. Thought also needs to be given to management of the water flow and its impact on the Dam wall.

Climate

- The climate of the area is a transitional one, with the maritime influences of the mild and wetter West Coast of Scotland and the more continental influences of the colder and drier East.
- The Forth Valley is one of the warmer areas of Scotland. It is low lying, sheltered to the north by the Ochil Hills and benefits from the warming effect of the River Forth.

Aquatic fauna

- The condition of the aquatic fauna in Gartmorn Dam is in decline.
- In the mid 1990s, pond dipping activities with groups, using species present as pollution indicator revealed that the water quality was good.
- In 2016, similar surveys suggest a poorer range of species with a lack of clean water indicator species.
- Leech species and hog louse are common, indicating low oxygen levels.
- Other taxa such as caddisfly species and water scorpion are present, but in small numbers.
- In essence, the water body is beginning to feel and act like a pond.

Trees

- Gartmorn Dam Country Park has an impressive array of native and non native trees. Headwall Wood is dominated by established Beech trees, with some Oak, Holly and Scots pine.
- Cowpark Wood is a deciduous woodland dominated by Oak and Birch. Beech and Sycamore are also present along with Rowan, Ash and other species.
- The Forestry Commission land to the north of the Dam is dominated by coniferous trees.
- There are 2 areas of deciduous mixed community woodland to the north and south of the Dam.
- The Dam itself is surrounded by mixed deciduous trees. Also of interest is the willow carr habitat.
- Tree surveys have recently been undertaken by Central Scotland Green Network for Cowpark Wood and Headwall Wood (both council owned)

Birds

- Gartmorn Dam was first designated a SSSI in 1971 for its importance to overwintering wildfowl.
- The dam has now been re-designated as a SSSI for its variety of pondweeds instead.
- In 1997 the Forth Naturalist and Historian stated that Gartmorn Dam is still far and away the most populous site, holding 37 % of all still water birds in the region. The wildfowl numbers have declined over the years, but a good variety and number of birds are still present, especially over the winter months. Information comes from the WEBS counts.



Mute swans resident at Gartmorn

- Mink (*Mustela lutreola*) create a problem for nesting ducks and it is probable that a good percentage of chick loss is due to predation.

- Up until 2012 The Dam was a fishery and disturbance from fishing was a common problem. Since the fishery has closed, there should be a reduction in disturbance which may allow some recovery.
- For a full list of wildfowl see appendix 2 and also the Forth Naturalist and Historian journal.
- Barn owls (*Tyto Alba*) are a notable species present within the Country Park. Boxes have been put up around Clackmannanshire including 3 within the Country Park. This was part of the BOOLS (Barn Owls of Lowland Scotland) Project. The boxes are checked annually and the chicks ringed under BTO (British Trust for Ornithology) license. The box at Gartmorn Dam is particularly successful.



Barn owls at Gartmorn

- There are plans to put up Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*) boxes.
- Ospreys (*Pandion haliaetus*) and even White-tailed sea eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*) have been seen within the Country Park.
- The Country Park provides ideal habitat for many breeding summer migrants, such as Willow warbler (*Phylloscopus trochilus*) and Chiff chaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*)

Appendices 2 and 3 give some additional information about Birds in the Country Park.

Flora

- The open water of the dam is highly productive and nutrient-rich supporting a wide variety of large submerged or floating plants. In particular, an unusually large number of pondweeds (*Potamogeton* species) occur, including one nationally scarce species, Slender-leaved pondweed (*Potamogeton filiformis*), and several that are locally uncommon.
- The transition fens consist largely of Reedswamp (*Phragmites australis*), Bulrushes (*Typha latifolia*), Reed sweet grass (*Glyceria maxima*) and Common spikerush (*Eleocharis palustris*). They support plant species which are scarce in the area such as trailing St John's

wort (*Hypericum humifusum*). It is also the only known site in Clackmannanshire for the Trifid bur-marigold (*Bidens tripartite*).

- There is concern after Scottish Natural Heritage deemed Gartmorn Dam unfavourable, declining, due to change in water flow, most likely due to the closure of the lade in 2002.



Mammals

- The Country Park supports a healthy mammal population with most of the common Scottish mammals you would expect to see being present.
- Species of notable conservation value include various bat species: Common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*), Soprano pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*), Noctule (*nyctalus noctula*) Daubentons (*Myotis dabentonii*) and Brown long eared bats (*Plecotus auritus*). Other mammal species include Otters (*Lutra lutra*), Red squirrels (*Scirius vulgaris*), Water shrews (*Neomys fodiens*) and more recently Pine martens (*Martes martes*).



Fish

- Gartmorn Dam was stocked in the past as a fishery with Brown trout (*Salmo trutta*) and Rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*). There are also Pike (*Esox lucius*) and Perch (*Perca fluviatilis*) in the dam, which occur naturally.
- Determining the different species of fish in Gartmorn Dam since the fishery closed would be a useful tool in determining the future management of the water body.

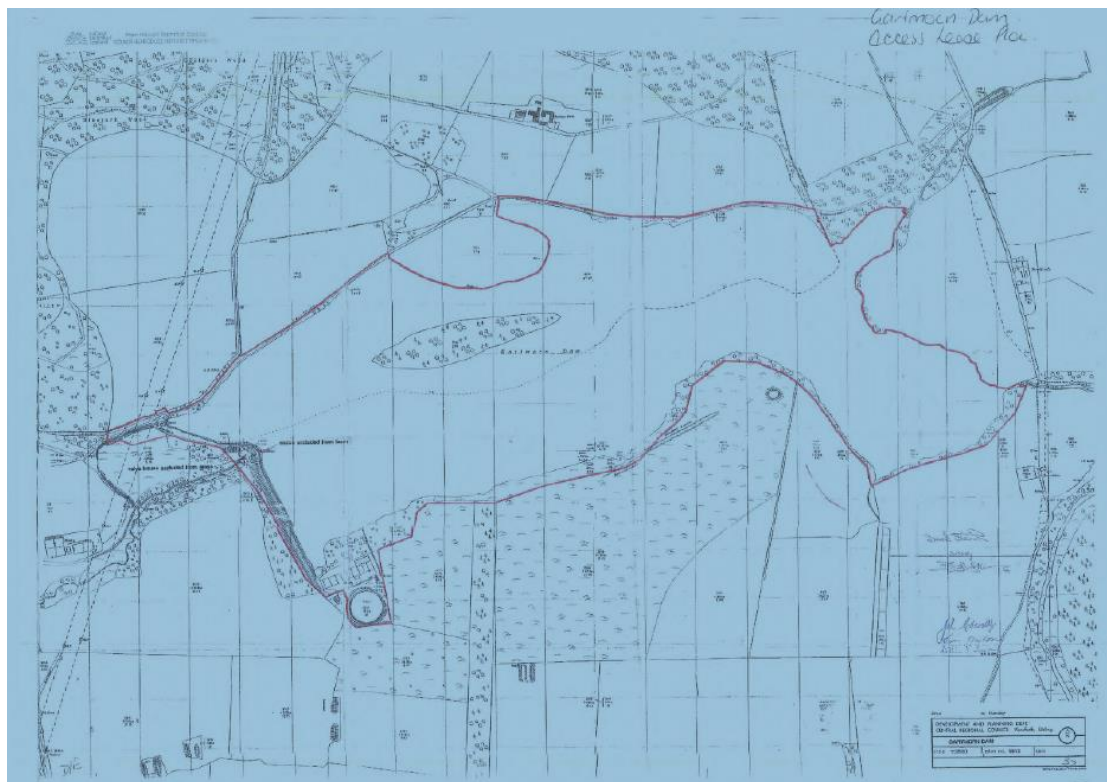
Amphibians and Reptiles

- Amphibians such as the Common frog (*Rana temporaria*) and the Common toad (*Bufo bufo*) are abundant at Gartmorn Dam especially in the Island Field area.
- Reptile survey roofing felt sheets have been laid by the Ranger Service in Cowpark Woods and Adders (*Vipera berus*) have been sighted in the area.
- There have been Smooth newts (*Lissotriton vulgaris*) in the Island field lagoons when pond dipping. There is also potential breeding ground in the pond behind Gartmorn House.

Land Tenures

This is not a legal document. Please refer to the original tenure documents before taking any decision or any action that may have legal implications. Legal Documents pertaining to ownership and leases are kept with Clackmannanshire council legal services.

Gartmorn Dam (66ha) is leased by Clackmannanshire Council from Scottish Water. The map below show the area covered by the lease. The lease is valid until 31/3/2029.



Map of land leased from Scottish Water by Clackmannanshire Council

The dwelling house and surrounding ground, approximately 933m², at the south end of the headwall is in private ownership.

The Café is owned by Clackmannanshire Council and is currently leased to Dam Good Coffee.

Local Context

Community Profile – Green Hub Survey

In March 2011, Gartmorn Dam Advisory Group, Clackmannanshire Council and Transerv commissioned a Green Hub study to provide a framework for the future management and maintenance of Gartmorn Dam Country Park. This consultation was tasked with identifying existing park users and to identify possible areas of improvement within the Country Park. The findings were then to be incorporated into the Management Plan.

The Green Hub Survey found that 80% of visitors lived within 5 miles of the Country Park. Only 4% had travelled more than 16 miles. The closest community to Gartmorn Dam is Sauchie, which is listed as being within the 15 most deprived areas in Scotland.

The communities of Sauchie, Keilarsbrae, Fishcross and Coalsnaughton are all located on the boundaries of the Country Park and have access through a network of paths.

Menstrie, Alva, Tillicoultry, Clackmannan and Kincardine all have access to the Country Park via a network of paths, local roads or cycle ways.

Trip advisor has 73 reviews which have an average rating of 4.5 out of 5 for Gartmorn Dam Country Park. The main issues that people report are:

- Lack of toilets
- Overgrown paths in places
- Locked bird hide.



The Green Flag Award

The Green Flag Award Scheme recognises and rewards well managed parks and green spaces, setting the benchmark standard for the management of recreational outdoor spaces across the UK and around the world.



A successful Green Flag Award site demonstrates, through a sound management plan and a well run site that the management understand:

- **their users:** who they are, who they could be, what they want, how they are informed and involved.
- **their Site:** what is special about its history, biodiversity, landscape, social and physical setting and what it is trying to achieve.
- **their management strategy:** that what is there is safe, in line with legislation and policy, well maintained and that there are plans for the future.

A decision was taken at the time of writing, to use the Green Flag Award criteria for the basis for this Management Plan. Ultimately it would then enable us to apply for a Green Flag Award, which would be a great asset to the people of Clackmannanshire.

A Welcoming Place

1: Welcome



Gartmorn Dam Country Park is signposted from various points in the local area and a sign at the entrance is also present. All could be improved.

Leaflets and interpretive panels are also available but could be improved

A Ranger Service provides a welcome, but this is limited due to a reduction of posts.

2: Good and Safe Access

There are many ways to access the park – by car, bus, foot, bike or horse.

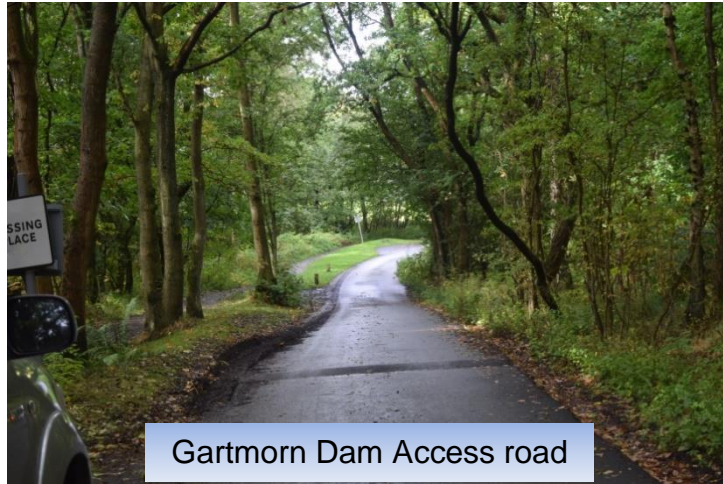
Public transport

Public transport to the park is achieved by various buses along the A91 /908. There are accessible core paths into the park from there but it is a 2km walk to the Visitor Centre and Dam, essentially the main hub of the park

Buses will take you to Sauchie – service details can be found here: <https://www.firstbus.co.uk/> .

Car

Arriving by car involves travelling through a housing estate with speed bumps and at times lots of children on / by the road. Once in the park, the access road is a narrow, single track with passing places. Recent repairs have improved the surface with the filling of potholes.



Car parking is limited. There is car parking adjacent to the Café, an overflow car park and a third unsurfaced car park that is poorly signposted, unsurfaced and not maintained. The two main car parks provide space for 46 vehicles, with 2 disabled parking spaces at the Café.

One of the limiting features of the Country Park as a destination for a wider geographical area is the fact that there is only one vehicular access point. Ideas have been floated about improvements to this by:

1. New visitor car parking to the north (Hamilton Wood – FC)
2. New Visitor car parking to the south (Near Hillend Farm)
3. New access to the visitor centre and new car parking at Keilarsbrae
4. A new car park and path improvements at the Forestmill end.

These are all ambitious and expensive projects, but could be looked into further to assess viability.

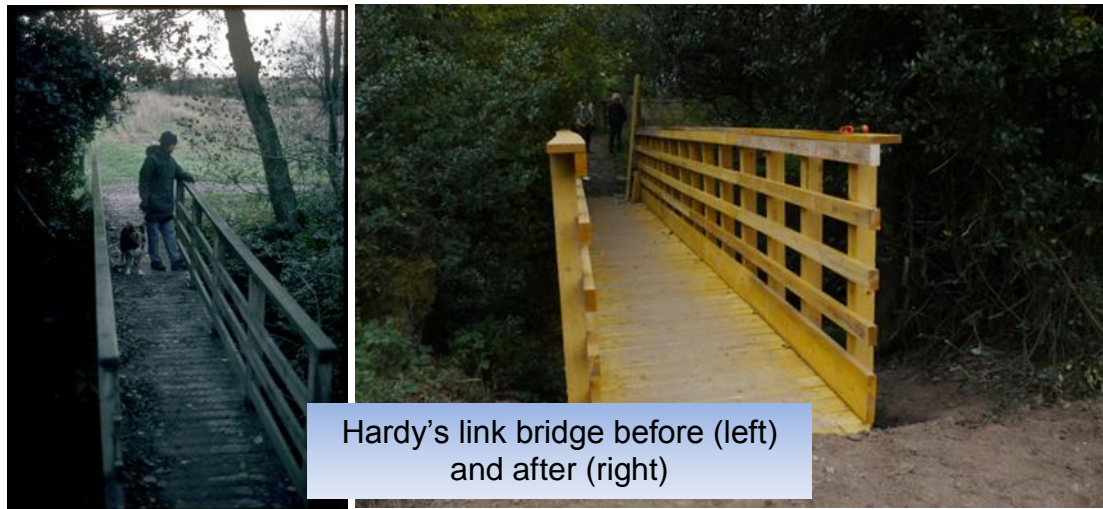
Non-motorised transport

Access to the park by bike / foot or horse is excellent with a number of well signposted paths. All communities adjacent to the park are well served, and communities further afield can link into this more local network (appendix 3).

Gartmorn Dam Country Park is well served by a variety of core paths which all link in to the Clackmannanshire Core Path network and a wider network of regional paths.

The most widely used core path (121) encircles the dam, is DDA compliant and is a good length for a pleasant walk (just over 3 miles). It is a popular dog

walking route. Replacement of the lade bridge (Hardy's link) and recent path improvements have opened up this path to all user groups.



There is a people counter at Sherrifyards which gives an indication of the number walking round the whole of the Dam.

Core paths radiate off from here in all directions, providing a comprehensive network and linking to other networks. Most of the paths are multi use and are therefore suitable for a variety of user groups. The paths themselves are owned by a variety of landowners.

The use of multi use and other paths is made a more pleasant experience when the public use them within their access rights. The Scottish Outdoor Access Code outlines what these rights are and the public should be encouraged to adhere to them. The code also outlines the responsibilities of landowners and they too should be encouraged to adhere to the code

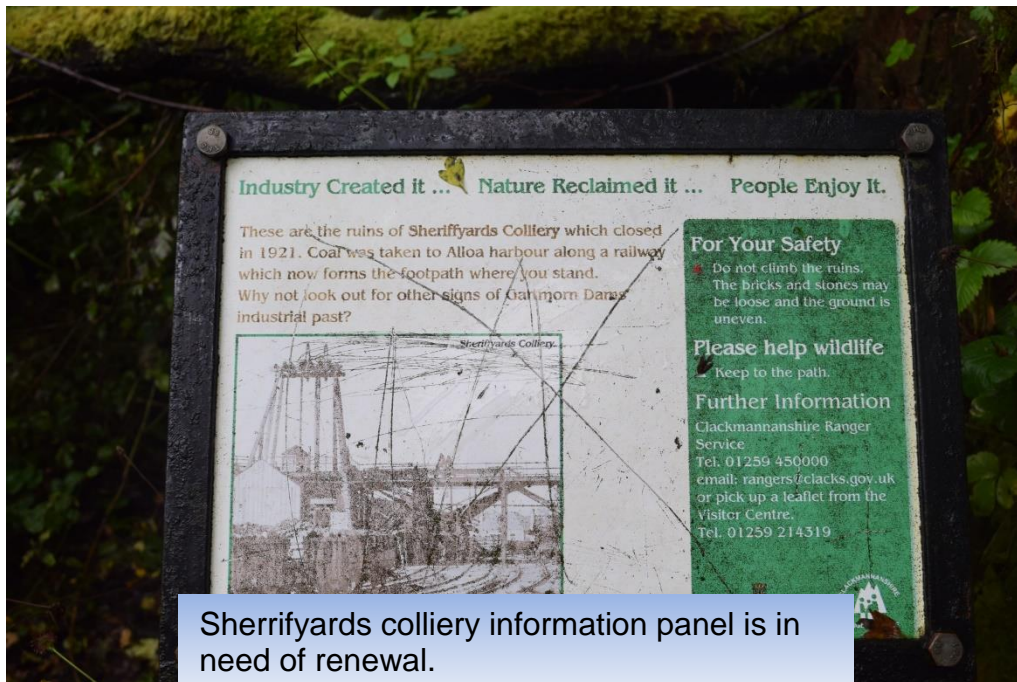
3. Signage

Safety signs are erected when required by the Ranger Service and by Scottish water – these include Blue green algae, ice and deep mud signs.



Water safety and wildlife signs

Historical information boards are currently designed and installed by the Ranger Service and there is wider scope for it on the site.



Sherrifyards colliery information panel is in need of renewal.

Wildlife information panels such as the one at the bird hide about Sand martins are also the responsibility of the Council. There is wider scope for interpretation panels at quite a few areas around Gartmorn Dam.



The core paths are all signposted and include distances to certain points.



There is a need for a new interpretation panel / map outside the café.

4. Equal Access for All

Clackmannanshire Disability Awareness Group raised funds to improve the Sunken Garden. The biggest grant they received was for £87,963 from the Big Lottery Community Spaces fund. The group is no longer running.

Disabled parking bays – there are disabled parking bays outside the café.



Gartmorn Dam is occasionally used to train trainers for disabled canoeists.

Hardy's link bridge was installed to make the path easier for wheelchair users.

Management

- Investigate improvements to signage for the overspill car park
- Investigate repainting the lines in all car parks
- Investigate the options for all 4 potential ideas to overcome the problem of the single vehicle access point
- Ensure all signage is kept up to date
- Council to continue to check core path 121 monthly
- Council to continue to check all other core paths annually
- Forestry commission to continue with path check regime on their land
- Council to liaise with landowners / Land Services over path repairs
- Council to ensure that SOAC leaflets are available in the café
- Council to maintain relationships with landowners and liaise with them over any access / maintenance issues
- Investigate better provision of maps for the general public – possibly for sale in the café?
- Use of SOAC posters / publicity to deal with any specific access issues where appropriate
- Council to ensure that paths are DDA compliant while out on patrol
- Council to produce new interpretive panels to go outside the café
- Council to make an inventory of all signs within the park, standardise them and remove any that are unnecessary
- Council to investigate replacing the current bird hide.

Healthy, Safe and Secure

5. Appropriate Provision of Quality Facilities and Activities

Up until 2017 Gartmorn Dam hosted a programme of very successful events as part of the annual Ranger Events programme. Numbers have built up over the years and people are now actively seeking out things to do outdoors.

The events programme was there to engage the general public, promote the Dam, promote the Scottish Outdoor Access Code and hopefully inspire people / families to explore the outdoors. Examples of past events include

- John Muir Award
- Forest Adventure Week
- Elves in the Woods (Christmas event)
- Spooky Woods (Halloween event)
- Family Campout
- Bush craft days
- Outdoor cooking



Most events were well attended, with the seasonal events attracting between 60 and 100 people. The Ranger Service was asked to put a stop to the

events programme in 2017 due to job re-profiling as a result of staff reductions.

There is an expectation that there should be events on offer in a Country park, usually via Ranger Services and the Ranger Service feels that events are important for the promotion of the outdoors and all its benefits (health and wellbeing).



Clackmannanshire Council
www.clacks.gov.uk



Ranger Events in Clackmannanshire

March to June 2017

Enjoy Scotland's outdoors responsibly

Everyone has the right to be on most land and inland water for recreation, education and for going from place to place providing they act responsibly. These access rights and responsibilities are explained in the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

When you're in the outdoors:

- take personal responsibility for your own actions and act safely
- respect people's privacy and peace of mind
- help land managers and others to work safely and effectively
- care for your environment and take your litter home
- keep your dog under proper control
- take extra care if you're organising an event or running a business.

Visit outdooraccess-scotland.com or contact your local **Scottish Natural Heritage office**.

KNOW THE CODE BEFORE YOU GO

SCOTTISH OUTDOOR ACCESS CODE outdooraccess-scotland.com

March

Rhoddie Basking

Wednesday 1st March
11am-3pm

Meet at The Woodland Park, near Alva

The non-native Rhododendrons are an ongoing problem in the Woodland Park as they take over at the expense of our native plants. We'll be spending the day cutting and burning.

- Bring a packed lunch
- Wear suitable outdoor clothing (boots / wellies)

John Muir Discovery Award

3rd-6th April (overnight camp on 5th)

- Time to be confirmed
- Location to be confirmed at time of booking
- 12-16 Year Olds

During the 4 days we'll be discovering a wild place, exploring it, conserving it and then sharing it. There will be an overnight camp on the Thursday night.

Booking Essential

Wild Places Discover - explore - conserve - share

April

Wildflower Planting

Wednesday 19th April
11am-3pm

Meet at The Woodland Park, near Alva

The Woodland Park is a great place for wildlife. Help us make it better by spending the day planting wildflowers.

- Bring a packed lunch
- Wear suitable outdoor clothing

May

Photography Workshop

Saturday 6th May
1pm - 6pm

16 and over

Location to be confirmed at time of booking

Join local photographer, Dave Taylor for a half day photography workshop.

- Bring your own camera
- Cost: £10 per person

Booking Essential

FAMILY EVENT

May

Teddy Bears Picnic

Sunday 7th May
10am-12noon

Meet outside Mona's Coffee Shop, Muckhart

Bring your teddy for a morning of fun and games in the woods. Make sure you pack a picnic too!

- Suitable for children 6 and under
- Children must be accompanied by an adult

Booking Essential

May

Build A Hibernaculum

Wednesday 10th May
11am-3pm

Meet at The Woodland Park, near Alva

The pond at the Woodland Park is home to various amphibians, small mammals and bugs. To aid their winter survival we'll be building them a hibernaculum.

- Bring a packed lunch
- Wear suitable outdoor clothing

June

Woodland Puppets

Saturday 17th June
10am - 12noon

Gartmorn Dam Visitor Centre

Have a go at making some fantastic woodland puppets. We might even manage to put on an impromptu puppet show!

- Suitable for families
- No unaccompanied children

Booking Essential

Booking onto our Events

Although the majority of our events are free, you are still required to book a place. This allows us to anticipate numbers. It's best to book early as all our events have maximum numbers and fill up quite quickly.

A few of our events have a charge associated with them. We'll give you payment information at the time of booking.

The Midweek Volunteer Group DOES NOT require you to book.

To book places on any of the events:
Email: rangers@clacks.gov.uk or
Telephone: 01259 450000

June

Food For Free

Saturday 7th May
2pm-4pm

Woodland Park, near Alva

The woods are full of fantastic free ingredients at this time of year. Try your hand at foraging then making some nettle soup, woodland salad and even dandelion tea!

- Suitable for adults and families
- No unaccompanied children

Booking Essential

June

Path Work

Wednesday 7th June
11am-3pm

Woodland Park, near Alva

Some of the steps at the woodland park are in need of a bit of attention. We'll be filling in eroded steps this month, making the paths easier and safer to walk. Mid Week Volunteer Group.

- Bring a packed lunch
- Wear suitable outdoor clothing

June

Tracks And Trails

Saturday 17th June
2pm-4pm

Meet at Gartmorn Dam Visitor Centre

Come along and learn how to become a master tracker! Make a tracking stick, play the sneaking game and have a go at trail laying.

- Suitable for families
- No unaccompanied children
- Wear suitable outdoor clothing

Clackmannanshire



Start Points

- Gartmorn Dam & Visitor Centre
- Woodland Park, Alva
- Coffee Shop, Muckhart
- Mill Green, Dollar

Attractions:

- Alva Tower
- Castle Campbell
- Alva Glen
- Menstrie Castle
- Clackmannan Tower

Outdoor Learning

Gartmorn Dam has a huge potential for supporting outdoor learning. The variety of habitats, landscape and wildlife means it is an ideal venue for exploring many areas of the curriculum as well as various topics.

Other Bodies

Various other bodies are involved in providing activities / running events at Gartmorn Dam. These include:

- Education Community Learning and Development
- Gartmorn Dam Country Park Development Trust (GDCPDT)
- Forestry Commission Scotland
- Cani Cross
- Wee Harriers
- Paths for all
- The Conservation Volunteers (TCV)
- Clackmannanshire Field Studies Society
- Sponsored walks – various
- Scottish Endurance Riders

Development of outdoor learning and activity programmes at Gartmorn Dam

There is a proposed development of the compound on the south shore of Gartmorn Dam as a base for outdoor learning and activities by Education, Community Learning and Development. This would offer alternative learning spaces for statutory education provision.

Activities could include opportunities to gain accreditation in various outdoor activities.

The Education Service are currently working in partnership at local and national level to develop flexible outdoor learning spaces in order to provide alternative learning pathways for children and young people displaying a wide range of complex barriers to education, including those who are excluded or at risk of exclusion and those with social, emotional and mental health needs or special educational needs.

Programmes will be developed and designed to meet the needs of learners who need alternatives to a traditional education setting. Learners are supported in small group work settings and are provided with a variety of options that can lead to wider achievement. Survey results demonstrated that 41% of 1300 young people surveyed would like to see outdoor activities developed.

Outdoor Learning and the Scottish Outdoor Access Code (SOAC)

Any activities within the Country Park must fit with the ethos of the Country Park and Local Nature Reserve. They must also operate within the Land Reform Act (2003) and adhere to the Scottish Outdoor Access Code. Any

activities that are outwith the Act and code should seek permission from the Council and relevant land owners.

Good practice would suggest that any large scale or long term activities should be done in consultation with the Council. Environmental impacts (long and short term) should also be considered at this point.

6: Safe Equipment and Facilities

Children's Play Area

The Owners of Dam Good Coffee are hoping to put in a play area in the future once the café is established. This would need to be approved by Clackmannanshire Council. This was looked at by the Ranger Service in the past but failed to attract funding. It was suggested that the play area could incorporate some natural play opportunities and also some mining heritage.

Antisocial behaviour

General vandalism of property, vandalism of benches and the bird hide in particular tends to increase during the school holidays. The Clackmannanshire Countryside Rangers work with local schools and this does appear to have a positive effect. Currently the Rangers are limited in what they can commit to with school groups and so vandalism may well increase again.

7: Personal Security

Vehicles

In the past there have been car break ins. Rangers talked to police to ask for an increased presence and for a while police patrols increased and crime dropped.

Hedges have been cut back to create a better sight line for cars to be seen from the Café. Signs warning car owners to keep their valuables out of site have also been erected by the Council.

Life buoys

These are checked by Waste Services and are replaced when required. At times they have been subject to vandalism and theft.



Drones

The rules for flying small recreational drones are set out in the Air Navigation Order 2009 (ANO) and should be followed at Gartmorn Dam Country Park.

8: Control of Dogs

The Country Park is an ideal length for a decent dog walk. It is used by both individual and commercial dog walkers.

Most dogs are walked responsibly and cause no issues. There is, however, a small minority of less responsible owners, who cause the following issues

- Dog fouling
- Dogs chasing wildfowl
- Dogs not under control

The issue of disturbance by dogs around the waters edge reduces suitable nesting and resting areas for birds (most notably wildfowl). This is addressed in Section 22, as it is a biodiversity issue.

Guidance for dog owners is clearly articulated in the SOAC document as well as associated leaflets, posters and advertising campaigns.
<http://www.snh.gov.uk/docs/C233791.pdf>



Management

- Council to plan an annual programme of events designed to appeal to all ages / families etc. This could be done in conjunction with other organisations who have an interest in the area
- Liaise with third parties running events and ensure that these comply with Health and Safety and that clashes are avoided
- Continue joint working on events with the Forestry Commission Ranger
- Liaise with café over events
- Rangers to continue to forge links with local schools as well as schools in the wider area
- Rangers to continue to provide monthly outdoor learning training for teachers at Gartmorn Dam via the Clackmannanshire Outdoor and Woodland Learning Scotland Group.
- Continue with existing dog bins
- Increase advisory signage at the boat launch and café, encouraging owners to put dogs on leads around wildfowl
- Rangers to liaise informally with the public when on site
- Consider running dog events in the Country Park to raise awareness and encourage responsible behaviour
- Liaise with Environmental Health if specific issues arise
- Ensure SOAC leaflets about dogs are available in the Café.
- Signage to be erected by Council when conflict increases with birds. These should ask owners to put their dogs on leads or under close control in specific areas, for example when birds are nesting.

Well Maintained and Clean

9: Litter and Waste Management

Waste from Gartmorn Dam is collected by Waste Services and is disposed of at the Council recycling area at Forthbank.

10: Horticultural Maintenance

This is undertaken by the council around the main paths and car park area. In the past, the Rangers have run workdays to improve other areas of the Country Park. Currently the Ranger Service has been working with volunteers from GDDT to streamline plans for the sunken Garden and to carry out maintenance and development.

11: Arboricultural Maintenance

Gartmorn Dam has many areas of woodland as well as smaller stands of trees. The trees should be regularly surveyed to ensure the Clackmannanshire council fulfils its duty of care as a landowner / land manager. Areas of Woodland surrounding Gartmorn Dam are managed by the appropriate land owners with input from the Council where required.

A survey of woodland owned and managed by Clackmannanshire council was carried out in CSGN in 2017 (see appendix 1). As a result of this, the Ranger Service has drawn up local guidance on and a regime of tree survey inspections of council owned woodlands. Gartmorn Dam is included in this. The Rangers have attended a Tree safety survey Course (2018), but in view of further cuts to council resources attending a higher level Tree safety course is desirable.

Storms and the subsequent damage are time consuming and can be challenging to deal with. The possibility that these kinds of events are becoming more frequent due to climate change needs to be considered and taken into consideration as much as possible for the future management of Gartmorn Dam.

12: Building and Infrastructure Maintenance

The Valve House and Sluice Tower are owned and maintained by Scottish Water. The Pump House and old Toilet Block are leased by and maintained by Clackmannanshire Council. New roofs were put on the buildings owned by Scottish Water in 2017. The old Visitor Centre is leased by Clackmannanshire Council to Dam Good Coffee.

The infrastructure in the Country Park is maintained by Clackmannanshire Council and Scottish Water.

13: Equipment Maintenance.

The life buoys are checked and maintained by Waste Services

Hardy's link Bridge at the far side of Gartmorn Dam was widened for wheelchair access.<https://www.buildscotland.co.uk/construction-news/168529/building-work-starts-at-gartmorn-dam>

Management

- Council to continue to work with volunteers / groups to improve the horticultural diversity of the Country Park
- Council to carry out / arrange full, regular tree safety surveys along path boundaries, within a wider tree survey / inspection routine
- Windblown trees within fall length of pathways to be felled.

Environmental Management

14: Managing Environmental Impact

Users are encouraged to use active, non-motorised transport to access the Country Park.

There is potential for bike hire in the future.

15: Waste Minimisation

Waste is recycled as much as possible. Contents of the bins are separated where achievable at Forthbank Recycling Centre.

During litter picks, volunteers are encouraged to separate waste into recyclable and non-recyclable bags.

16: Chemical Use

Our aim is to spray as little as possible and with the least toxic, non-residual chemicals available.

17: Peat Use

There is no peat use associated with Gartmorn Dam

18: Climate Change

Clackmannanshire Council's Sustainability and Climate Change strategy can be found at www.clacksweb.co.uk/document/2858.pdf

Management

- Liaise with other interested parties over the possibility of bike hire.
- Council to continue to support litter picks at Gartmorn Dam and to encourage volunteers to separate the waste collected.

Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage

19: Management of Natural Features, Wild Fauna and Flora

20: Conservation of Landscape Features

21: Conservation of Buildings and Structures

Since it is most sensible to manage Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage by compartments, these three headings are combined.

Headwall Area

The Headwall area runs from the entrance area to the Sunken Garden area. It includes all car parks, the barbeque site on the north shore, Café (old Visitor Centre) and the Headwall. This area is subject to the greatest number of visitors. It includes two areas of nature conservation interest. A woodland of Birch, Oak, Lime, Beech and Hawthorn runs from south of the car park 'behind' the Café and links to the Brothie Burn woods and compartment 2. The old holding pond near the Sunken Garden is important as a spawning site for newts and toads. A number of brick-built pits can be found next to the pond, providing hibernation sites.



Management

- Grass cutting – Council to continue with current regime
- Dam headwall to be maintained by Scottish Water as necessary
- Benches and bins to be maintained by Council

Headwall Wood

This woodland runs parallel to the headwall of the dam. It consists mainly of Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) and Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) with an understory of Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) and Beech saplings. Other tree species include Oak (*Quercus* species) Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*), Sycamore (*Acer pseudo-platanus*), Holly and Birch (*Betula pendula*). There are plans for an 'edible' hedge of native trees to be planted by Scottish water on the boundary of the woodland. There are bat boxes in the woods which are surveyed annually by the Rangers.

Because of the fact that it is a mature woodland with very little understorey (some ferns (*Polypodiopsida* species) and brambles (*Rubus fruticosus*) it is ideal for use with groups, as any damage is minimal. In recent years the Rangers have built a fire circle (currently dismantled) and have made the site suitable for Forest schools and other activities. It is used for events by Youth Services and various school groups.

There are a number of bat species roosting in Headwall Woods. Known species include Brown long-eared bats (*Plecotus auritus*), Common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*) and Soprano pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*). There are a number of bat boxes in the woods and these are surveyed every year (since 2008) by the Rangers. The boxes are now in a poor state of repair. There is evidence to suggest that bats are more likely to roost in woodcrete boxes, so these will replace the old wooden ones.



Management

- Re-build fire circle
- Carry out tree safety surveys as per CSGN recommendations
- Carry out some limited thinning to increase the age and species diversity of the site
- Replace existing wooden bat boxes with Woodcrete boxes
- Annual bat survey

The Sunken Garden

The Sunken Garden was the old filter-beds for Gartmorn Dam when it was a reservoir. The filter-bed was later transformed into an area where people could come and sit. It is wheelchair accessible and is well used by those wanting a shorter walk and a seat at the end. It was planted with a variety of plants, including sensory plants, to make it a more pleasant place to visit. Planting included an area with herbs and flowering plants. It has a bug hotel that was built by a local disability group and other wildlife friendly features. There was a draft drawn up with a permaculture design for the garden in 2002.



Management

- A rolling annual work plan should be drawn up with the help of relevant council staff.
- Groups wishing to carry out work in the Sunken Garden should discuss this with the Council programme of work will be agreed, based on the current work plan.
- Maintain area to allow access in for all

The South Shore

This runs from the western edge of the south shore footpath along to the lade bridge. It includes the waters edge, the narrow strip of trees that runs along the bank and the surfaced path. Small wooded areas include Oak, Birch, Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Sycamore. Among other woodland species present there are Amphibious bistort (*Persicaria amphibia*), Burr marigold (*Bidens ripartite*) and Dog violet (*Viola riviniana*)



Bing on south shore – steps needing repair (left) and steps that have had repair by Paths for All and Education Community Learning and Development project (right).

Management

- Cut back trees to improve the view from the bing
- Install new bench on the bing
- Improvements to the bing steps to be completed

The Meadow

The grassland contains Tufted-hair grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*), Cocks foot (*Dactylis glomerata*) and Yorkshire fog (*Holcus lanatus*). Rosebay willowherb (*Chamerion angustifolium*) and Creeping thistle (*Cirsium arvensae*) are abundant, with Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*), Greater birds-foot trefoil (*Lotus pendunculatus*) and Meadow vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*) present in the sward. The coal bing at the southern edge of the area supports mainly Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*).

The species present suggest the meadow is becoming rank. Therefore a cutting regime is required to lower soil nutrients and allow some of the finer meadow grasses and flowers to flourish. This will greatly increase its biodiversity value.



Management

- Baseline transect survey to get an up to date plant list
- Annual cut and rake (possibly use the volunteer group)
- Bi-annual transect surveys to assess the impact of the cutting regime. This could be done as a citizen science project or by students from Stirling University.

The East Shore

This runs from the lade bridge to the field drain in the north-eastern corner of the reservoir. The vegetation along the bank consists mainly of Reed Sweet grass (*Glyceria maxima*) and Amphibious bistort (*pescaria amphibia*) with Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) and Goat willow (*Salix caprea*) carr.



Management

- Sensitive thin out areas of carr habitat

Sherrifyards Woodland

This was the site of Sherrifyards Colliery, which closed in 1921. It is within the S.S.S.I. designation. Birch (*Betula pendula*) and Oak (*Quercus species*) are dominant with a Hawthorn, Elder and Goat willow (*Salix caprea*) under-story. Lesser celandine (*Ficaria verna*), Dog violet (*Viola riviniana*) and Enchanters nightshade (*Circaea lutentiana*) are found in the field layer.

Various bits of the built structure of Sherrifyards Colliery remain. However most of the built heritage is very overgrown. There is a small interpretation panel which is small, outdated and gives only scant information.



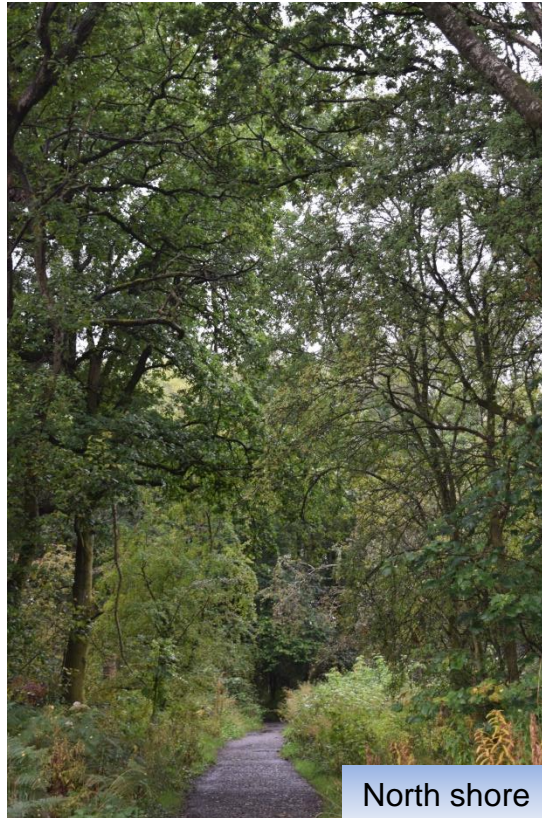
Remains of Sherrifyards colliery

Management

- Cut back / spray vegetation which is damaging the structures
- Fell any trees which are growing out of the structures and treat the stumps
- Either map the built structures or locate a map
- Photograph the structure before further deterioration
- Produce a new interpretive board

The North Shore

The habitat along this old mineral railway is similar to the south comprising marginal plants, a narrow woody strip with hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), dog rose (*Rosa canina*) and goat willow (*Salix caprea*) and the surfaced path. Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) is common along the banks of the western half.



Management

- Reduce the number of sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatus*) by felling

The Local Nature Reserve

This includes three areas of land within the LNR boundary. These are the 'Pike ponds', the island field and the island itself. Bird watching screens are installed here. The pike ponds are surrounded by reed beds and have a Willow scrub edge. A strip of trees and shrubs including Oak (*Quercus* species), Birch (*Betula pendula*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and Dog-rose (*Rosa canina*) forms the south and west edges. This area is used by woodland species and Mallard ducks (*Anas platyrhynchos*) for nesting. Coot (*Fulica atra*), Moorhen (*Gallinula chlorolus*) and Mute swan (*Cygnus olor*) nest in the reedbeds. The Island field has two grassland communities, a fine sward with Vetches (*Vicia* species), Dock (*Rumex* species) and Creeping thistle (*Cirsium arvense*). Due to a lack of management the grassland areas are beginning to turn rank. The lagoons support a diverse invertebrate and plant community. Reed sweet grass (*Glyceria maxima*), Reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), Meadowsweet (*Fillipendula Almeria*) and Greater birds foot trefoil (*Lotus pendunculatus*) grow along the banks of the field. There are a number of mature trees on the

island including Oak (*Quercus species*), Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris*), Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) and Willow (*Salix species*). Little grows in the deep leaf litter on the island floor beneath the closed canopy with the exception of a few ferns. An artificial Sand martin (*Riparia riparia*) bank was built with the help of volunteers on the island field and an Otter (*Lutra lutra*) holt was constructed with help from Scottish Autism volunteers and volunteer rangers.



Island Field meadow



Sand martin bank – built with the help of volunteers



Management

- Baseline transect survey to get an up to date plant list
- Annual cut and rake (possibly use the volunteer group)
- Bi-annual transect surveys to assess the impact of the cutting regime. This could be done as a citizen science project or by students for Stirling University.
- Annual removal of Reed canary grass. Cut back Birch trees in front of the Sand martin bank to encourage use by Sand martins.

22: Biological Recording

Although there are good historical records of surveys / bird lists etc., there is very little recent information about the flora and fauna of Gartmorn Dam Country Park.

There is a WEBS count done by a local volunteer. Unfortunately there is a charge for accessing this data. Some information can be found in the Forth Naturalist and Historian journals (Forth Area Bird Report amongst other articles).

Sound management of any site requires a good understanding of what it is we are actually trying to manage. With this in mind, there needs to be a concentrated effort to update our biological records.

Bats: an annual bat survey is done to check occupancy of the bat boxes in Headwall Woods and Cowpark Woods. Some bat species do not use boxes

and this only gives us a small snapshot. The Bat Conservation Trust compile data from surveys nationally. These surveys could be done at Gartmorn Dam – a waterways survey and a Field survey.

23: Disturbance of Wildfowl

Gartmorn Dam is extremely popular with dog walkers (including commercial dog walkers). Many dogs go into the water and in some instances actively chase swans / ducks etc. There is very little of the water edge where wildfowl can rest and nest without being disturbed, which means that breeding numbers are anecdotally low. Sections of dead hedging at various points around the Dam could offer a solution to this, as well as some floating nesting platforms. It may also be worth looking at the island to see if any clearing / planting would be beneficial

Management

- Installation of dead hedging and duck nesting platforms, to increase the area of undisturbed nesting / resting habitat for birds.
- Investigate whether any work on the island would be beneficial for nesting birds.

Community Involvement

24: Community Involvement in Management and Development

Patterns of use survey

In March 2011 the Green Hub Survey was carried out to help inform future maintenance and management of Gartmorn Dam. The key findings in the survey were.

- The majority of people questioned were in full time employment or retired
- The largest proportion of visitors were white Scottish (85%)
- The majority of visitors were from local communities, with over 80% of people travelling from within a 5 mile radius.
- Only 4% travelled over 16 miles
- The vast majority of people drive (56%) or walk (27%)

Groups / Organisations using the Country Park

- Gartmorn Dam Country Park Development Trust (GDCPDT)
- Local Outdoor groups – Ramblers, sports groups, DAG
- Community Police
- Clackmannanshire OWLS (Outdoor and Woodland Learning Scotland)
- Field Studies Society
- Scottish Autism
- Play Alloa
- Education Community Learning and Development
- Others

25: Appropriate Provision for the Community

Community groups, individuals and schools are all encouraged to use the country park independently and there is a good range of outdoor learning equipment and training available through the Clackmannanshire Outdoor and Woodland Learning Scotland group.

Volunteers carry out a wide range of tasks at Gartmorn Dam and there is huge potential to involve them further in the management of the site.

The Ramblers group hold some of their annual walks at Gartmorn Dam. There is potential to further increase their number of walks at the programme development stage. The presence of the coffee shop makes this an even more attractive proposition now.

A full events programme has been offered in the past and is again an excellent way of bringing the local community into the Country Park. The events have historically been free as much of Clackmannanshire is classed as an Area of Multiple Deprivation.

Over the years, the Rangers have worked closely with Scottish Autism at Gartmorn Dam. This has had a mutual benefit for both the clients and the management of the site.

There is a proposed development of the compound on the south shore of the Gartmorn Dam as a base for outdoor learning and activities, by Clackmannanshire Council's Education Service. This would offer alternative learning spaces for statutory education provision. Activities would include environmental work, cycling, canoeing, walking, camp craft, eco friendly learning environment with opportunities to gain accreditation.

Education Services are currently working in partnership at local and national level to develop flexible outdoor learning spaces in order to provide alternative learning pathways for children and young people displaying a wide range of complex barriers to education, including those who are excluded or at risk of exclusion and those with social, emotional and mental health needs or special educational needs. This is in line with Clackmannanshire Council's Local Outcome Improvement Plan, the National Improvement Framework, the Education for Additional Support Act and the Child Poverty Scotland Act 2017. This is being developed on a cost neutral basis for Clackmannanshire Council and in partnership with the third sector and local business.

Programmes will be developed and designed to meet the needs of learners who need alternative to a traditional education setting. Learners are supported in small group work settings and are provided with a variety of options that can lead to wider achievement. Survey results demonstrated that 41% of 1300 young people surveyed would like to see outdoor activities developed.

Management

- OWLS group to further publicise their resources and training to the local community and local schools
- Council to develop a leaflet / app for schools
- Council to develop a monthly Volunteer Programme for Clackmannanshire, with an emphasis on Gartmorn Dam
- Council to develop an annual Events Programme, with an emphasis on Gartmorn Dam
- Council to continue links with the Ramblers Group and to encourage them to make full use of the path network in and around the Country Park
- Council to continue to work with Scottish Autism
- Rangers to work with Education Service to develop the outdoor learning space and activities.

Management and Communication

26: Marketing and Promotion

There are already various interpretation panels and leaflets, but most are outdated and need to be redone. It is also worth investigating developing an app.

25: Appropriate Information Channels

The Ranger Service has historically worked with the Communications Department to promote Gartmorn Dam. Currently this is done via

- Facebook
- Twitter
- Clacksweb
- Press
- Posters
- Leaflets

There is also a Fieldfare Trust photo trail which is available online.

Other avenues for marketing include

- GDCPDT Facebook page
- GDCPDT website
- Dam Good Coffee Facebook page

26: Appropriate Educational and Interpretive Information

There is very little online or written information available for educational visits to Gartmorn Dam. Most of the Ranger Service educational input is face to face. This could be supplemented by an educational guide / children's leaflet / app.

Management

- Council to develop new interpretation panels
- Council to update the Gartmorn Dam leaflet
- Council to develop an educational guide / children's guide / app

How will we know when we get there?

Monitoring & Review

Council officers will continue to visit Gartmorn Dam regularly and progress will be monitored against the Management Plan. Work with Gartmorn Dam Country Park Development Trust and other stakeholders will continue to identify strengths and weaknesses of the park to improve it for all users. Regular meetings with Gartmorn Dam Country Park Development Trust members will allow joint working between officers and groups. This should allow members to communicate with the Council any thoughts that they have on the way that the park is managed. It should also allow for officers to communicate information about any planned developments at Gartmorn Dam.

Ideally a user survey will be carried out and this should help to guide the plans for the park. It should allow officers to see where users are happy with current changes in the park and where future plans should be made.

The park's Management Plan will be reviewed once a year. This will allow the officers to focus on actions and developments for the year ahead. Regular review meetings will also take place when necessary. Review meetings will be held following feedback from each Green Flag application to discuss any suggestions and recommendations raised by the judges.

There is now a five year work programme. This outlines all the tasks, who is responsible, when they will be carried out and how progress will be shown and monitored.

Useful references

Clackmannanshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan -

<http://www.clacks.gov.uk/document/4519.pdf>

Green Hub Development study – request an electronic copy from the Ranger Service at rangers@clacks.gov.uk

Gartmorn Dam Country Park Development Trust - contact the trust at

<http://gartmorndam.btck.co.uk/>

Clackmannanshire Birds Atlas – <https://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/birdatlas>

Forth Naturalist and Historian Articles - <http://www.fnh.stir.ac.uk/>

Clackmannanshire Field Studies Society - www.cfss.org.uk

5 Year Work Plan

Green Flag Category	Task	Who is responsible	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Assessing progress
A Welcoming Place	Improve signage for Overspill car park	Council	Design, order and put up signs	Monitor signage and replace as necessary				Visitor Survey to be carried out in 2021 to assess public satisfaction and to find out what further improvements are needed
	Investigate repainting car park lines	Council		Paint New car park lines				
	Ensure all access signage is up to date	Council	Regular patrols by Rangers to monitor signage					
	Investigate options for multiple vehicle access	Council FC	Liaise with other relevant bodies					
	Gartmorn Dam Path check	Council	CP 121 to be checked monthly					
	Core path Checks	Council	All core paths to be checked annually FC to check their core paths as per their inspection regime					
	Path Repairs	Council / FC / Landowners	Liaise with landowners / FC / Land Services over repairs					

Green Flag Category	Task	Who is responsible	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Assessing progress
A Welcoming Place	SOAC Information	Council	Ensure SOAC leaflets are available in the café. Use of SOAC posters to deal with any specific access issues.					Visitor Survey to be carried out in 2021 to assess public satisfaction and to find out what further improvements are needed
	Landowner relations	Council	Maintain Relationships with landowners and liaise over any access issues					
	Map Provision	Council	Investigate better provision of maps for the public – café?					
	Disabled Access	Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular patrols by rangers to ensure paths are maintained for disabled users. Liaise with third parties / council groups over improvements / use by disabled users. 					
	Safety Signage	Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep safety signage updated 					
	Interpretive panel			New interpretive panel for outside cafe				
	Signage inventory	Council	Make an inventory of all signs within the Park	Standardise all signs				

Healthy Safe and Secure	Task	Who is responsible	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Assessing progress
	Control of Dogs	Council	Rangers to liaise informally with the public when on site					Visitor Survey to be carried out in 2021 to assess public satisfaction and to find out what further improvements are needed Decrease in incidences of issues with dogs
			Liaise with environmental health if specific issues arise					
		Council	Increase advisory signage at the boat launch and visitor centre, encouraging owners to put dogs on leads around wildfowl.					
		Council	Continue with existing dog bins.					
		Council	Ensure SOAC leaflets about dogs are available in the visitor centre.					
		Council		Increase advisory signage at the boat launch and visitor centre, encouraging owners to put dogs on leads around wildfowl				

Healthy, safe and Secure	Task	Who is responsible	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Assessing progress
	Events	Council Partners may include FC, TCV, GDDT, Dam Good Coffee.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan an annual programme of events designed to appeal to all ages / families etc. This could be done in conjunction with partners Investigate third parties running events and ensure that these comply with H and S and that clashes are avoided Continue joint working on Events with the Forestry Commission Ranger Liaise with café over events. 					Visitor Survey to be carried out in 2021 to assess public satisfaction and to find out what further improvements are needed
	Outdoor Learning	Council	Rangers to continue to forge links with local schools as well as schools in the wider area					Increase in number of schools using the Country Park
Rangers to continue to provide monthly Outdoor learning training for teachers at Gartmorn Dam via the Owls GROUP								
	Possible playpark Installation	Café Council	Liaise with Café owners and Clacks Council over the possibility of a playpark					<p>Playpark either present or not</p> <p>Visitor Survey carried out in 2021 to assess public satisfaction and look at further improvements.</p>

Well Maintained and clean	Task	Who is responsible	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Assessing progress
	Volunteers – Sunken Garden	Council, GDDT Community groups and volunteers	GDDT volunteers to carry out regular maintenance and development tasks in the sunken garden. Any development plans should be discussed with the Council					Visitor Survey to be carried out in 2021 to assess public satisfaction and to find out what further improvements are needed
	Tree Safety	Council	Draw up tree survey safety survey regime					Ongoing
Rangers to attend Tree Safety survey Course								
Council to carry out / arrange full, regular tree safety surveys along path boundaries								
Windblown trees within fall length of pathways to be felled								

Environmental Management	Task	Who is responsible	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Assessing progress
		Bike Hire	Council	Liaise with café over the possibility of bike hire				
Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage	Reinstate Gartmorn Lade	Scottish water / Council / GDDT	Liaise with Scottish water, SNH and SEPA in 2018 to investigate whether reopening of the lade would be possible, feasible and beneficial. Following on from these discussions, carry the project forward if funding is available. Funding might be more easily accessed by GDDT.					Only possible if appropriate funding becomes available.
	Headwall area Headwall Woods	Council	Grass cutting by Land Services					Ongoing
		Scottish Water	Scottish Water to maintain the headwall					Ongoing
		Council	Benches and bins maintained as necessary by Council Services.					Ongoing
		Council	Rebuild Fire circle	Maintain Fire Circle				Ongoing
		Council	Carry Out tree safety surveys					Ongoing
		Council	Replace wooden bat boxes with woodcrete Schwegler boxes.					Ongoing
		Council	Annual Bat surveys					Ongoing
	South Shore	Council	Cut back trees to improve the view					Improved view

Biodiversity	South Shore Bing	Council	Install new bench on the bing						New bench
	Task	Who is responsible	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Assessing progress	
	The Meadow	Council Possibly Stirling Uni	Baseline transect survey to get an up to date plant list		Bi-annual survey		Bi-annual survey	Species list should reflect an increase in finer grasses and meadow flowers	
		Council / Volunteers	Annual cut and rake						Species list should reflect an increase in finer grasses and meadow flowers
	Island Field	Council / Possibly Stirling Uni	Baseline transect survey to get an up to date plant list	Bi-annual survey		Bi-annual survey		Species list should reflect an increase in finer grasses and meadow flowers	
		Council / Volunteers	Annual cut and rake						Species list should reflect an increase in finer grasses and meadow flowers
		Council/ Volunteers	Annual removal of reed canary grass	Species list should reflect an increase in finer	Cut back / spray vegetation damaging		Cut back / spray vegetation damaging	Increase in finer grasses / native meadow species	

				grasses and meadow flowers	structures		structures	
	Task	Who is responsible	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Assessing progress
	Sand martin bank				Cut back birch trees from front of the sand martin bank to clear sight lines.			Clearer sight lines for sand martins, hopefully increasing sand martin use.
	The East Shore	Council / Volunteers		Thinning Out Carr habitat				Increase in marginal wetland plants
	Mitigating bird disturbance at the waters edge	Council / Volunteers	Install duck nesting platforms	Investigate whether any thinning / planting on the island would benefit nesting birds				
			Install areas of dead hedge around the Dam					

Community Involvement	Sherrifyards Woodland / remains of colliery	Council Poss GDDT involvement	Map and photograph the built structures					Record of built structures
		Council – poss vol /GDDT involvement	Cut back / spray vegetation / Fell any trees (and spray stumps which are damaging the structures					Structure should be visible and more stable

	Task	Who is responsible	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Assessing progress
	Outdoor Learning Training	Council	OWLS Group to publicise resources and training to local schools / community Groups					More local groups using the site – visitor survey (2021)
	Outdoor Learning - schools	Council		Rangers to develop a leaflet / app for schools				More local groups using the site – visitor survey (2021)
	Volunteer Programme	Council	Run annual Volunteer programme Gartmorn Dam (this could be supported by GDDT). Liaise with FC and TCV who often have volunteers looking for additional projects.					Increase volunteer numbers (Visitor survey (2021)) Records kept of volunteer hours and tasks completed
	Ramblers Group	Council	Ranger to continue links with the Ramblers group and encourage them to make full use of the path network in and around the Dam					Ramblers programme to reflect increased use of the country park
	Scottish Autism	Council	Rangers to continue work with Scottish Autism Volunteers					Increase volunteer numbers

Appendices

Appendix 1: Gartmorn Dam Country Park – Management Rules

Management Rules Regulating the use of Countryside Areas

Clackmannanshire Council (hereinafter referred to as “the Council”) by virtue of the powers conferred on them by Section 112 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 DO HEREBY make the following Management Rules to regulate the use of and conduct of persons while on or in certain areas of land in Clackmannanshire (hereinafter called “Countryside Areas”) which are owned, occupied or managed by the Council or are otherwise under their control and to which the public have access.

Interpretation

In the construction of these management rules unless the context otherwise requires:

“Countryside Areas” mean the following areas of land known as:

- (a) Gartmorn Dam Country Park, Sauchie
- (b) Cowpark Wood, Gartmorn Dam, Sauchie

Shown shaded red on the plan annexed and executed as relative hereto.

“Council” refers to Clackmannanshire Council incorporated under the Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act 1994.

“Authorised Council Officer” means any employee of the Council nominated by the Council to carry out the duties of Authorised Officer.

“Authorised Organisation” means Clackmannanshire Leisure or any other organisation authorised by the Council.

“Landowner” means any owner of land in or adjoining countryside areas.

“Scottish Water” means the owner of Gartmorn Dam

“Vehicle” means a vehicle including a motor cycle or quad bike but excluding a cycle or an invalid carriage.

“Notice” means a Notice issued by or with the authority of the Council and erected or posted on, at or near the place to which it refers.

1. No person within Countryside Areas shall wilfully damage or deface any structure, sign, notice or any natural feature.

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(i) No person shall within Countryside Areas light any fire unless in the use of a portable stove, BBQ or other appropriate apparatus provided for that purpose.

(ii) Notwithstanding the foregoing no person shall within Countryside Areas throw or let fall any ignited match or any firework or other substance or thing likely to cause fire.

3. No person shall drop, throw down or place any object likely to deface Countryside Areas, or deposit any garden waste material within Countryside Areas.

4. No person while using Countryside Areas, shall, with or without any animal under their control, do so in a manner likely to cause damage or injury to any property or person or nuisance or annoyance to any person or interfere with the peaceful enjoyment of the Countryside Areas.

5. No person shall, while using Countryside Areas, with or without any animal under their control, wilfully or negligently uproot, pick or destroy or damage any plant or tree; disturb, injure kill or remove any animal or habitat, bird nest or egg.

6. No person shall unless with the prior written consent whether by permit or written consent of the Council or any other Authorised Organisation, Landowner or Scottish Water with rights of ownership or management, bring into, use or have in or upon the Countryside Areas any gun rifle or other firearm, knife, snare, engine or instrument or apparatus which may be used to take or kill wildlife or which may be used in such a way as to interfere with the peaceful enjoyment of the Countryside Areas.

7. Vehicles entering Countryside Areas [with the exception of Scottish Water, Landowners, Authorised Organisations or statutory undertakers in the course of their daily business] will do so only on surfaced access roads provided for that purpose and obey any restriction on their use whether by signage or road markings or on the direction of an Authorised Council Officer.

8. No person shall offer for sale any food or anything from within the Countryside Areas without the written permission of the Council.

9. No person shall carry out any of the following acts within the Countryside Areas unless with the prior written consent or appropriate signage of the Council or Scottish Water.

(i) Use any mechanically powered vessel on any water area.

(ii) Wilfully or negligently foul or pollute any water;

(iii) No person shall moor a vessel of any type on any water area overnight or for the purpose of storage.

10. No person shall build any building nor site any caravan or camper van for the purposes of staying overnight without the prior consent or appropriate signage of the Council.

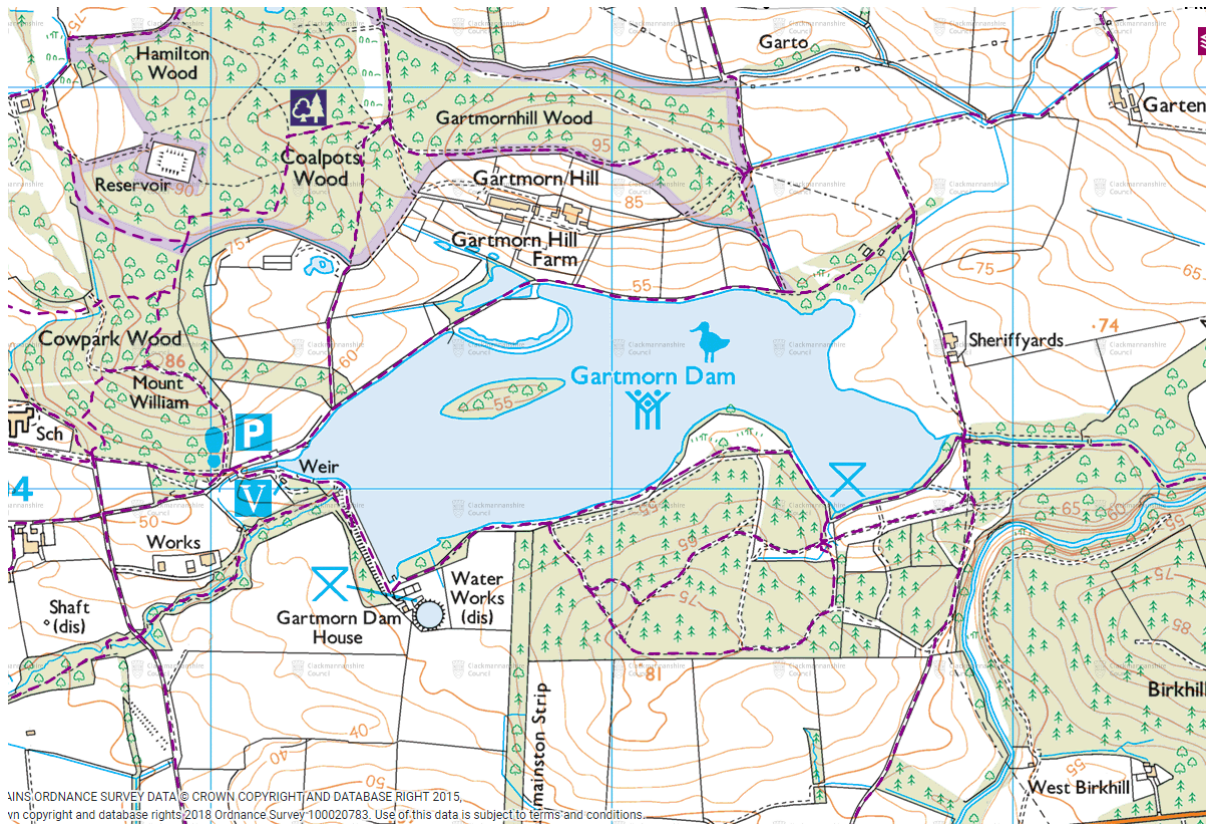
11. No person shall consume alcoholic drink in the Countryside Areas or in any building erected thereon except in areas designated from time to time by the Council for that purpose.

12. No person shall disobey a Notice whether it be a Notice referred to in these management rules or otherwise.

13. No person shall fail to neither comply with any proper instruction given by an Authorised Council Officer nor obstruct him/her in the execution of his /her duties.

14. Any act necessary to the proper execution of his duty in the Countryside Areas by a Council Officer or by any person employed by the Council or of an agent of or Contractor with the Council or any person employed by such Contractor or

Appendix 2: Core Paths – Gartmorn Dam and surrounding area



Appendix 3: Historical Bird Count Data

There is no up to date bird count data available for the Dam. Although WEBS counts are being done, BTO hold this data. There is charge to access it.

Maximum Counts 1990 – 2000

	90/91	91/92	92/93	93/94	94/95	95/96	96/97
97/98	98/99	99/00					
Mallard	890Dec. 264Oct.	840Dec. 173Oct.	620Sept.	680Dec.	495Jan.	386Oct.	430Jan.
Teal	208Oct. 48Feb.	112Nov. 17Feb.	33Sept.	220Jan.	39Jan.	205Dec.	210Jan.
Wigeon	960Feb. 548Feb.	1350Dec. 50Jan.	386Oct.	1260Jan.	557Jan.	1150Dec.	844Jan.
Tufted Duck	212Oct. 260Mar.	244Dec. 105 Oct. 263Oct.	257Sept.	137Sept.	88Oct.	184Nov.	174Oct.
Pochard	26 Nov. 42Dec.	112Sept. 13Nov. 43Oct.	102 Oct.	78Nov.	64Oct.	79Oct.	38Oct.
Goldeneye	56Feb. 62Feb.	48Feb. 37Jan. 42Feb.	48Mar.	48Feb.	52Jan.	132Mar.	62Jan.

	98/99	99/00	90/91	91/92	92/93	93/94	94/95	95/96	96/97	97/98
G. C. grebe	15 Nov	19 Nov	9 Nov	5 Oct	4 Mar	11 Nov	14 Oct	6 Nov		
			4 Sept	9 Nov						
Little grebe	3 Feb	17 Oct	20 Oct	12 Oct	17 Sept	17 Sept	15 Sept	24 Sept		
			7 Sept	2 Nov.						
Mute swan	51 Oct	122 Nov	19 Oct	22 Oct	21 Sept	35 Oct	27 Nov	61 Oct		
			16 Sept	18 Oct						
Whooper swan	2 Nov	11 Nov	16 Feb	17 Oct		58 Feb	6 Jan	12 Dec		
			40 Oct							
Pinkfoot goose			400 Nov	270 Sept	1 Mar	1 Feb				
			18 Mar							
Greylag goose	400 Mar	90 Nov	1600 Nov	487 Oct	112 Mar	320 Mar	190 Jan	200 Feb		
				10 Jan						
Cormorant	6 Dec	11 Jan	4 Oct	7 Nov		9 Oct	36 Oct	8 Oct		
			5 Nov	3 Nov						
Coot	810 Dec	482 Dec	680 Dec	800 Jan	659 Oct	480 Nov	300 Nov	547 Nov		
			160 Nov	361 Nov						
Grey Heron	7 Oct	1 Oct	3 Feb		6 Jan	8 Feb	9 Mar	9 Oct		

CC Pochard Aythya ferina	Winter resident Max. 176 in 1986	Winter resident Max. 112 September 1991
Pochard Red-crested Netta rufina	Infrequent winter visitor March 1987	No records
CC Scaup Aythya marita	Infrequent winter visitor Max. 2 September 1984	

**Family +
Species**

Past records (1990 plan) New records (1990-2000)

Ducks, geese and swans – Anatidae (continued from previous page)

CC Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	Occasional visitor in small numbers	Winter visitor 3 in Mar.1997. 2 Mar.1998
Shoveler <i>Anas clypeata</i>	Occasional visitor Max. 10 Dec.1983 / Pair May 1990	Visitor in small no.s max 4. Pair bred in 1997. lagoons
CC Smew <i>Mergus albellus</i>	Infrequent visitor Jan 1987	Female present Dec. 1995
Swan Black <i>Cygnus atratus</i>	No records	Pair present October 1997 till Feb.1998 . (Escapes)
CC Swan Mute <i>Cygnus olor</i>	Resident breeding. Big groups winter. 63 Nov.'82	Breeding / 4 pairs 2000. Winter max.122 Nov. 1997
CC Swan Whooper <i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	Winter visitor Max. 62 in October 1989	Winter visitor Max. 62 in 1993 / 40 in 1998 *
CC Teal <i>Anas crecca</i>	Winter resident Max.700 1989	Winter visitor Max 210 Jan. '97.
CC Wigeon <i>Anas penelope</i>	Winter resident Max. 1200 October 1989	Winter visitor Max.1350 Dec. '91 / 548 Feb.'98
Wigeon American <i>Anas americana</i>	No records	Single bird in Oct. 1992 and in Jan. 1994. Vagrant

Falcons - Falconidae

CC Kestrel <i>Falcon tinnunculus</i>	Resident. Breeding	Resident . Bred in Grass- mainston strip 1995. 1997
CC Merlin <i>Falcon columbarius</i>	Recorded in winter	No records * Although sighted in District
CC Peregrine <i>Falco peregrinus</i>	No records	Recorded during winter * counts

Finches - Fringillidae

CC Brambling <i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	Passage migrant	14 Jan 1995 * Occasional winter visitor
P Bullfinch <i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	Resident. Breeding	Resident . Probably breeding
Chaffinch <i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Resident .Breeding	Resident .Breeding
CC Goldfinch <i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	Resident . Breeding	Frequent visitor
CC Greenfinch <i>Carduelis chloris</i>	Resident. Breeding	Resident. Breeding
P Linnet <i>Acanthis cannabina</i>	Resident. Breeding	Resident . Winter flock of 85 Jan. 1995
Redpoll <i>Acanthis flammea</i>	Resident. Breeding	No records
CC Siskin <i>Carduelis spinus</i>	Occasional winter visitor	40 in Dec.1996 Many parties Sept. 1997

**Family +
Species**

Past records (1990 plan)

New records (1990-2000)

Grebes - Podicipitidae

CC Black-necked grebe Podiceps nigricollis	Infrequent visitor Last record 8/3/87	Rare visitor * 2 birds in Feb. 1992
Great crested grebe Podiceps cristatus	Numbers vary between 5-10 birds throughout year	Bred in 1998 reared two young.
Little grebe Tachybaptus ruficollis	Resident throughout year 2-3 breeding pairs	Max. 24 September 1995 10 pairs / 14 young 1993. No breeding 1999/2000
CC Slavonian grebe Podiceps auritus	Infrequent visitor	1 bird in December 1999 *

Gulls, terns - Laridae

Black-headed gull Larus ridibundus	Present all year round. Large winter flocks	Max. 468 Jan 2000
Common gull Larus canus	Winter visitor. Non - breeding summer visitor	Visitor. More birds in winter Max. 121 Nov. 1999
Great Black-backed gull Larus marinus	Occasional visitor especially in winter	Occasional visitor
CC Herring gull Larus argentatus	Common winter visitor	Visitor. Small numbers. 1 Dec. 1999
CC Lesser Black-backed gull Larus fuscus	Winter visitor and on passage	Visitor. Small numbers. 2 Feb. 1999
CC Black tern Chlidonias niger	No records	Sighted 7/5/00 *

Hérons - Ardeidae

Grey heron Ardea cinerea	Seen throughout year Single birds	Resident. Max 9 Mar 95' 4/5 pairs in G' hill woods
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Kingfishers - Alcedinidae

CC Kingfisher Alcedo atthis	No records	Sighted Sept and Oct * 1999, Oct 2000, Jan 2001
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Larks - Alaudidae

P Skylark Alauda arvensis	No records (but known to have been common)	Thought to be less frequent in 1999 and 2000
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Owls - Strigidae

CC Long-eared owl Asio otus	No records	Bred Grassmainston strip 1998
CC Tawny owl Strix aluco	No records	Resident. Bred S'yards '96 and Cowpark 1997

Oystercatcher - Haematopodidae

Oystercatcher	Resident. Breeding in	Visitor. Higher numbers in
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Haemotopus ostralegus	surrounding area	Winter . 46 March 1998
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Family +

Species **Past records (1990 plan)** **New records (1990-2000)**

Pheasants, partridges and quails - Phasianidae

Pheasant Phasianus colchicus	Resident. Breeding in surrounding area	Resident
P Grey partridge Perdix perdix	Resident. Breeding in surrounding area	Resident

Pigeons - Columbidae

Wood pigeon Columba palumbus	No records	Resident. Breeding
Stock dove Columba oenas	No records	Resident

Plovers - Charadriidae

CC Ringed plover Charadrius hiaticula	Resident . Breeding	No records
CC Lapwing Vanellus vanellus	Resident. Breeding	Visitor / 37 August 2000 No recent breeding

Rails - Rallidae

Coot Fulica atra	Resident. Breeding. Large winter flocks. Max 800 '89	Resident. Breeding. Max.810 December 1996
Moorhen Gallinula chloropus	Resident. Breeding	Resident. Breeding
CC Water rail Rallus aquaticus	No records	Pair resident in North shore reserve.

Sandpipers - Scolopacidae

CC Curlew Numenius arquata	Resident. Breeding in surrounding area.	Summer visitor
CC Godwit (black-tailed) Limosa limosa	Occasional passage migrant	No records
CC Greenshank Tringa nebularia	Passage migrant	No records
CC Redshank Tringa totanus	Passage migrant	No records
Sandpiper (common) Tringa hypoleucos	Passage migrant	Passage migrant
CC Snipe Gallinago gallinago	Resident. Breeding	Resident . Seen in lagoons. Max. 28 Feb. '00
CC Woodcock Scolopax rusticola	Resident. Breeding	Resident Pair bred Cowpark 1995

**Family +
Species**

Past records (1990 plan)

New records (1990-2000)

Sparrows - Estrildidae

House sparrow Passer domesticus	Resident. Breeding	Resident 30 in December 1996
P Tree sparrow Passer montanus	Resident. Breeding	Resident. 26 in October 1996

Starlings - Sturnidae

Starling Sturnus vulgaris	Resident. Breeding	Resident.
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Swallows, martins - Hirundinidae

CC House martin Delichon urbica	No records	Summer visitor.
CC Sand martin Riparia riparia	No records	Summer visitor in large numbers
CC Swallow Hirundo rustica	No records	Summer visitor.

Swifts - Apodidae

Swift Apus apus	No records (known to have been regular summer visitors)	Regular summer visitors in small numbers. Arrive in early May
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**Family +
Species**

Past records (1990 plan)

New records (1990-2000)

Thrushes, warblers and flycatchers - Muscicapidae

Blackbird Turdus merula	Resident. Breeding	Resident. Breeding
CC Blackcap Sylvia atricapilla	No records	Summer visitor. Breeding 1993
CC Chiffchaff Phyoscopus collybita	Summer visitor. Breeds	Summer visitor. Breeding 1993
CC Fieldfare Turdus pilaris	Winter visitor	Winter visitor 200 March 1998 *
P Flycatcher (spotted) Muscicapa striata	Resident . Breeding	Bred near brothie burn in early 1990's
CC Goldcrest Regulus regulus	Resident. Breeding	Resident
CC Redstart Phoenicurus phoenicurus	No records	1 in July 1995
CC Redwing Turdus iliacus	Winter visitor	Winter visitor 200 march 1998 *
Robin Erithacus rubecula	Resident. Breeding	Resident. Breeding
P Thrush (song) Turdus philomelos	Resident. Breeding	Resident.
CC Warbler (garden) Sylvia borin	No records	Summer visitor. Breeding 1993
CC Warbler (reed) Acrocephalus scirpaceus	No records	Summer visitor. Breeding 1993
CC Warbler (sedge) Acrocephalus schoenobaenus	No records	Summer visitor. Breeding 1993
CC Warbler (Willow) Phylloscopus trochilus	Summer visitor. Breeding	Summer visitor. Breeding 1993
CC Warbler (wood) Phylloscopus sibilatrix	No records	Summer visitor. Breeding 1993
CC Whitethroat Sylvia communis	No records	Summer visitor. Breeding 1993

Tits - Paridae

CC Blue tit Parus caeruleus	Resident. Breeding	Resident. Breeding
CC Coal tit Parus ater	Resident. Breeding	Resident. Breeding
CC Great tit Parus major	Resident. Breeding	Resident. Breeding
Long-tailed tit Aegithalos caudatus	Resident. Breeding	Resident. 3 pairs bred N. shore '96. Max. flock 86 '95

**Family +
Species**

Past records (1990 plan)

New records (1990-2000)

Treecreepers - Certhiidae

CC Treecreeper Certhia familiaris	Resident. Breeding	Regularly sighted especially in Cowpark
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Vultures, hawks and eagles – Accipitridae

CC Buzzard Buteo buteo	No records	Resident. Breeding G'hill 2 young in 1997 & Birkhill?
CC Osprey Pandion haliaetus	No records	On passage. Seen Sept * '93, Aug'95, June'96 & '97
CC Sparrowhawk Accipiter nisus	Resident. Breeding	Resident. Seen along North Shore path.

Wagtails, pipits - Motacillidae

CC Meadow pipit Anthus pratensis	No records	Resident
CC Pied wagtail Motacilla alba	No records	Resident. Breeding

Woodpeckers - Picidae

CC Great spotted woodpecker Dendrocopus major	No records	Resident. Breeding 2 pairs Cowpark 1997
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Wrens - Troglodytidae

Wren Troglodytes troglodytes	Resident. Breeding	Resident.
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Gartmorn Dam SSSI – DRAFT- Management Plan for SSSI requirements – 2019 – 2024

Background

Gartmorn Dam SSSI is owned by Scottish Water and is managed by Clackmannanshire Council as a Local Nature Reserve. Clackmannanshire Council have a lease to continue to manage the site until 2029. The reservoir is considered a high risk site by Scottish Water, which means that there is the potential for high flood risk. Because of this the site can only be sold to a public body. The reserve is managed by the rangers and volunteers, as well as other council staff.

Historically the site was part of the water management system for draining mines, then the loch was used for drinking water and most of the water was supplied through a lade running from the Black Devon at Forest Mill. The lade has been shut since 2002 and the loch relies on recharge from the surrounding fields which are mostly in agricultural or arable use. This water brings with it nutrients into the loch, and without the lade's water input, the water flow through is greatly reduced. The change in water quality and increase in nutrient inflow has changed the chemistry and biology of the loch and this has affected the notified features. The loch was originally notified as a moderate nutrient mesotrophic loch and was changed to a high nutrient eutrophic loch based on the findings from SNH's site condition monitoring. The bird assemblage was removed as a notified feature in 2008.

Gartmorn Dam SSSI is notified for the following features and their condition and pressures affecting them are as follows:

Open water transition fen	2015	Unfavourable declining	Drainage ditches, other agricultural operations, ploughing, spreading, water management
Eutrophic loch	2004	Favourable maintained	Water management

Since 2013 Scottish Water has repaired the damn and repaired the wall and bund on the south end of the loch. Unfortunately the works required the lowering of the water level in the loch. Because the damn was left open for much longer than the 6 months agree, the water level stayed low for about 3 years. This has damaged the notified features and changed the usage by birds. In the future SNH will advise the use of coffer dams around the work area so that the loch level will not be lowered.

The council used the loch as fisheries until 2012, stocking it with brown or rainbow trout. The fisheries were closed because of an infestation of fish lice. Fish stocking originally was from March to October, but in the 1990s it took place year round. This coincided with a substantial drop in bird species types and numbers recorded as using the site. Since then the Webs Counts have remained lower than they were when the bird assemblage was a notified feature. Since fish stocking would increase the nutrient input in the loch, this activity is unlikely to be consented to by SNH. The Gartmorn Dam Development Trust are keen to get the lade reopened and to start stocking and fishing the loch. SNH and Clackmannanshire Council will continue to liaise with them on future site management.

Vision and proposed management

The following management will be carried out by the rangers and volunteers. When the management plan is agreed by both parties then there will be no further consent required to progress the following:

1. Path maintenance – clear drains and ditches, repair steps as required, resurface paths
2. Path clearance of scrub as required
3. Use of the site for educational purposes – including pond dipping, canoe clubs and sample of plants and invertebrates
4. Use of vehicles on the SSSI – including ATV, van for contractors, on the dam head wall and at the cottage
5. Use of herbicide for path clearance only
6. Building a brush fence at the water's edge for screening to reduce bird disturbance
7. Thinning of the wood for health and safety – conduct bat and breeding bird surveys and only conduct outside of the bird breeding season
8. Thinning out of carr habitat
9. Fell sycamores that are smaller than pole stage to leave room for other tree species
10. Install barn owl, bat, bird and kestrel boxes

Any further management required can be consented by SNH through submitting a request for consent. Any activities that are on the list of Operations Requiring Consent must be considered for by SNH, see Annex 3.

Annex 1: CITATION

GARTMORN DAM

SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST

Clackmannanshire

Site code: 678

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: NS 920943

OS 1:50,000 SHEET NO: Landranger Series 58

1:25,000 SHEET NO: Explorer Series 366

AREA 66.26ha

NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES

Biological: Freshwater habitats: Eutrophic loch

Fens: Open water transition fen

DESCRIPTION:

Gartmorn Dam is sited in the lowland area of central Clackmannanshire, 2.5 km north-west of Alloa and 2km north of Clackmannan. The site is the largest area of open water in the district and represents a typical eutrophic lowland loch, with characteristic submerged plants, surrounded by open water transition fen of marginal vegetation and reed swamp.

The open water is highly productive and nutrient-rich supporting a wide variety of large submerged or floating plants. In particular, an unusually large number of pondweeds *Potamogeton* spp. occur, including one nationally scarce species, slender-leaved pondweed *Potamogeton filiformis*, and several that are locally uncommon. The transition fens consist largely of reedswamp *Phragmites australis*, bulrushes *Typha latifolia*, reed sweet grass *Glyceria maxima* and common spike-rush *Eleocharis palustris*. They support plant species which are scarce in the area such as trailing St John's-wort *Hypericum humifusum*; it is also the only known site in Clackmannanshire for the trifold bur-marigold *Bidens tripartita*.

Whilst the site is not notified for birds as a natural feature, the proximity of Gartmorn Dam to the internationally important bird populations of the Forth estuary also means that it is of regional importance as a wintering area for geese, swans and duck in times of inclement weather; and for migrant waders in autumn.

NOTIFICATION HISTORY

First notified under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949: 1971

Re-notified under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981: 14 October 1986

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

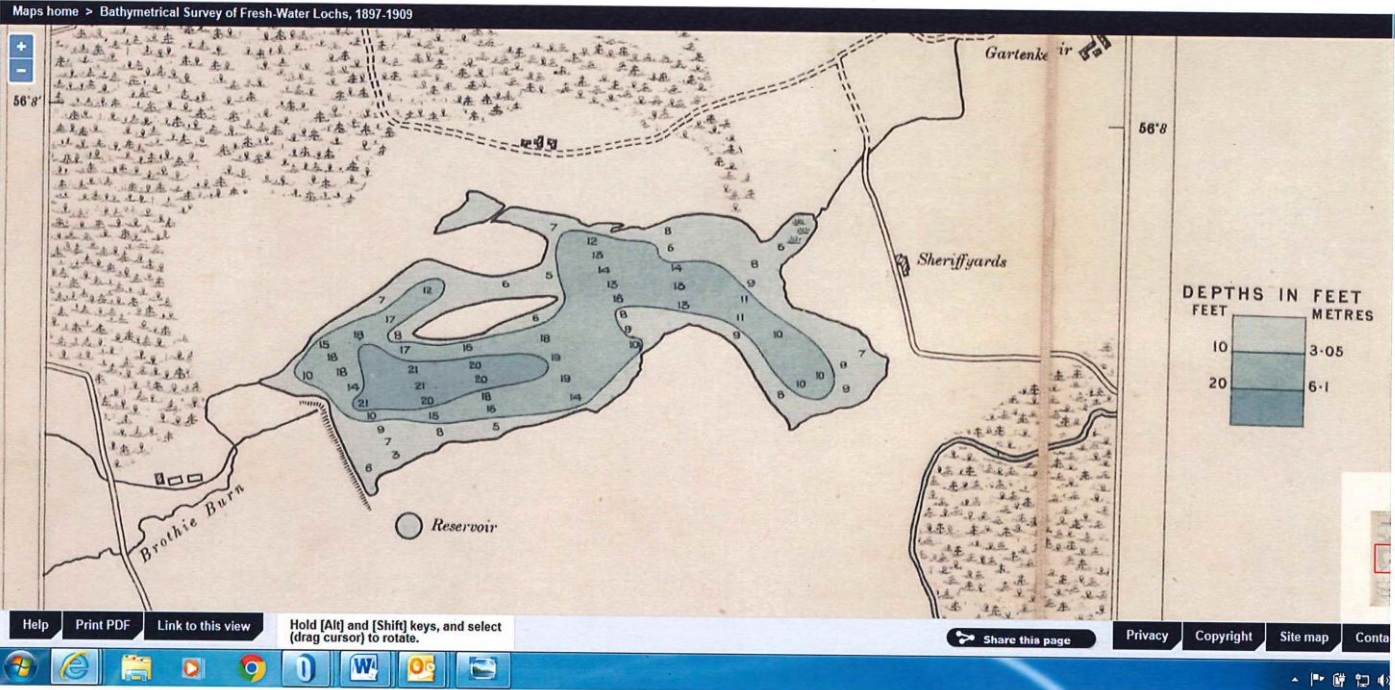
11 March 2011

REMARKS:

Measured area of site corrected (from 70.7 ha).

Annex 2: Map of water depth in Gartmorn Reservoir from 1908

Gartmorn Dam – map of water depth 1908



**GARTMORN DAM
SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST**

OPERATIONS REQUIRING CONSENT FROM SCOTTISH NATURAL HERITAGE

If you propose to carry out, or permit to be carried out, any of the operations listed below, you must first obtain consent from SNH unless a local authority has granted you planning permission (under Part III of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997) or a designated regulatory authority has given you written permission (under s.15 of the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004). If you have such a permission you may proceed without obtaining consent from SNH for the same operation.

<i>Standard Ref. No.</i>	<i>Type of Operation</i>
2	The introduction of grazing.
3	The introduction of stock feeding.
4	The introduction of mowing or other methods of cutting vegetation.
5	Application of manure, fertilisers and lime.
6	Application of herbicides (weed killers).
7	Dumping, spreading or discharge of any materials.
8	Burning of vegetation.
9	The release into the site of any wild, feral or domestic mammal, bird or fish, plant or seed.
11	The destruction, displacement, removal or cutting of any plant or plant remains, including tree, shrub, herb, dead or decaying wood, moss, lichen, fungus, leaf-mould, turf.
12	The introduction of tree and/or woodland management (including planting, selective felling, thinning, coppicing, modification of the stand or underwood, changes in species composition).
13a	Drainage (including the use of mole, tile, tunnel or other artificial drains).
13b	Modification of the structure of water courses (e.g. streams, springs, ditches, drains), including their banks and beds, as by re-alignment, regrading and dredging.
13c	Management of aquatic and bank vegetation.

*Standard
Ref. No.*

Type of Operation

- 14 The changing of water levels and tables and water utilisation (including irrigation, storage and abstraction from existing water bodies and through boreholes).
- 15 Infilling of ditches, drains, ponds, pools, marshes or pits.
- 16a Freshwater fishery production and/or management. The introduction of and changes in freshwater fishery production and/or management including sporting fishing and angling and the use of traps or fish cages.
- 20 Extraction of minerals, including sand and gravel, topsoil, subsoil, and spoil.
- 21 Construction, removal or destruction of tracks, walls, fences, hardstands, banks, ditches or other earthworks, or the laying, maintenance or removal of pipelines and cables, above or below ground.
- 22 Storage of materials.
- 23 Erection of permanent or temporary structures, or the undertaking of engineering works, including drilling.
- 26 Use of vehicles or craft likely to damage botanical interest.
- 27 Recreational activities likely to damage botanical interest.

**APPLICATION FOR CONSENT UNDER SECTION 16(2) OF THE NATURE CONSERVATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2004
TO CARRY OUT OPERATIONS LISTED BY SCOTTISH NATURAL HERITAGE (OR ITS PREDECESSORS, NCC, NCCS) AS
LIKELY TO DAMAGE THE NATURAL FEATURE(S) OF A SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST**

1. Name of Site:
2. Name, address and telephone number of person applying for consent:
3. Details of proposals:

Standard number of operation (as used in the notification)	Specified operation	Details of the proposed activity and who will carry it out. (see footnote 1)	Start and end dates	Land on which operation it is to be carried out (see footnote 2)

I propose to carry out the above operation and hereby apply for consent from Scottish Natural Heritage

SNH is collecting this information solely to determine your application for consent. Some operations require permission from a local planning or regulatory authority (as listed in the SSSI booklet) rather than consent from SNH. Please tick the box if you agree that we may pass on your application to the relevant authority in such a situation. If you have any queries about this please contact your local SNH office.

Tick

Please return this form to **Henry Lima, Scottish Natural Heritage, Strathallan House
Castle Business Park, Stirling, FK9 4TZ**

Signed

Date

(For your consent to be valid, this form must also be signed on behalf of SNH)

Please turn over the page

FOOTNOTES: (1) Please specify whether the operation is one which you propose to carry out yourself, or for which you propose to engage a contractor, or is to be carried out by a third party with your permission.

CONSENT BY SCOTTISH NATURAL HERITAGE UNDER SECTION 16(3) OF THE NATURE CONSERVATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2004

Scottish Natural Heritage hereby consents that as an owner/occupier of the site named, you may carry out, cause or permit to be carried out, the operations(s) specified above in the manner prescribed.

You are required however to give additional written notice if you propose to amend operations, or carry out an additional operation to which we have not consented or where the period identified in the proposal for the operation to take place has expired.

The issue of this consent does not absolve you from any contractual or legislative responsibility you may have to obtain the permission of any other party prior to carrying out the proposed operation.

Signed for Scottish Natural Heritage

Date: