

Argyll and Lochaber area management plan catchment summaries

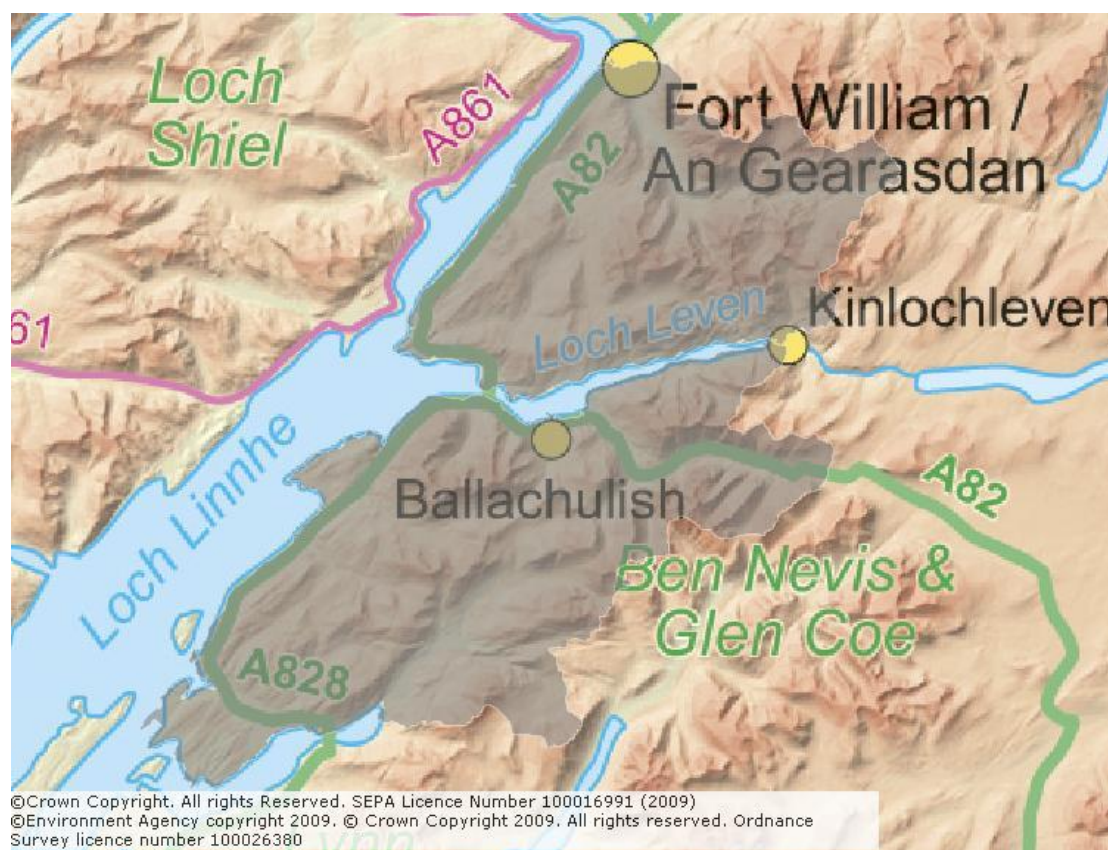
Appin coastal catchment summary

Introduction

Appin coastal catchment, covers 485 km² and borders the east coast of Loch Linnhe from Fort William in the north east to Ballachulish and to the Appin Peninsula in the south as shown by the grey shading in Map 1.

The catchment:

- contains 12 water bodies, one of which, the River Nevis, is a heavily modified water body (HMWB);
- is adjacent to four coastal and one transitional water bodies;
- contains/is adjacent to 18 protected areas.



Map 1: Area covered by Appin coastal catchment shown in grey

Further information on Appin coastal catchment can be found on the river basin planning interactive map – www.sepa.org.uk/water/river_basin_planning.aspx

Classification summary

Ecological status (ES) or potential (EP)	No. WBs	WB ID	Name	WB category
High ES	5	10321	River Creran	River
		20325	River Coe	River
		10322	River Ure	River
		20326	Allt Nathrach	River
		200089	Loch Linnhe (north)	Trans.
Good ES	3	10323	An Lola	River
		20324	River Laroach	River
		150067	Loch Linnhe	Groundwater
Good EP	1	20329	River Nevis	River (HMWB)
Moderate ES	8	20327	Abhainn Rìgh	River
		20322	Salachan Burn	River
		20323	River Duror	River
		20328	River Kiachnich	River
		200080	Loch Leven	Coast.
		200081	Loch Linnhe (south)	Coast.
		200075	Loch Creran	Coast.
		200066	Firth of Lorn	Coast.

Protected areas

Protected area (PA) designation	Condition	No. WBs	PA ID	Name
Shellfish growing water	Failing guideline standards	4	UKS7992332	Loch Creran, Argyll
			UKS7992342	Cuil Bay
			UKS7992380	Loch Leven
			UKS7992397	Sound of Shuna
Freshwater fish	Meeting required standards	2	UKS7865932	River Creran
			UKS7865987	River Nevis
Drinking water protection areas	Meeting current standards	7	150067	Loch Linnhe
			20329	River Nevis
			23467	Abhainn Greadhain
			23600	Abhainn Greadhain
			23613	Allt Socaich
			23616	Allt a' Mhuilinn
Special Area of Conservation	Favourable for water dependent	5	UK0012956	Ben Nevis
			UK0012959	Glen Coe

(SAC) for (amongst other non-water dependent features) Clear-water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation	features ¹			
SAC for mixed woodland and otter			UK0030155	Glen Creran Woods
SAC for reefs			UK0030190	Loch Creran
SAC for, (amongst other non-water dependent features) base rich fens			UK0030344	Onich to North Ballachulish Woods

Pressures, measures and objectives summary

No pressures – no deterioration objectives

No pressures exist on the water bodies which are at high or good ecological status. The objective for these is no deterioration in status by 2015.

Water resources pressures

The Abhainn Rìgh (20327) is at moderate ecological status due to pressures attributed to the Onich Water Treatment Works. These will be fixed by Scottish Water by 2014 so this water body will reach good ecological status by 2015.

Morphology

The forestry adjacent to the Salachan Burn (20322) and River Duror (20323) are scheduled to be restructured by the Forestry Commission by 2020 which will alleviate the morphology pressures on these water bodies. The objective for these is therefore to be good ecological status by 2021.

Similar restructuring to allow the River Kiachnish (20328) to reach good ecological status by 2027 is scheduled to take place by 2026.

¹ In some cases, other non-water dependent features are in unfavourable condition, but these are not discussed further here. If a water-dependent feature is unfavourable due to a non-water related pressure it is also not discussed further here.

Heavily modified water bodies (HMWBs)

The River Nevis (20329) is at good ecological potential with an objective of no deterioration by 2015. This is because the volume of water abstracted for the Alcan hydropower scheme is insufficient to bring the water body below good ecological status, so further mitigation measures are not required. The river is currently being considered as a possible freshwater pearl mussel reintroduction site.

Coastal water bodies

Loch Leven (200080), Loch Linnhe (South) (200081), Loch Creran (200075) and the Firth of Lorn (200066) are part of a group of 10 coastal water bodies that were all classified as moderate ecological status for benthic invertebrates in 2008. This moderate classification was based on the combined results of monitoring at five sites in Loch Linnhe, five sites in Loch Creran and five sites in Loch Sunart. Samples obtained from deep water in Loch Linnhe returned the poorest results, but it is thought that this was due to the sea water column being highly stratified, such that levels of dissolved oxygen at the sea bed were very low. The low levels of dissolved oxygen were not considered to be attributable to any human activity, and the results from these sites were not therefore thought to be representative of conditions across a large proportion of the 10 water bodies in question. For this reason a new set of more representative monitoring sites was selected for the purposes of producing future classifications, and results will be reviewed when the 2009 classification is produced.

Protected areas

For the protected areas meeting their required standards the objective is no deterioration by 2015.

Shellfish Waters

Please see the Argyll and Lochaber Area Management Plan for further information on planned source tracking and measures for shellfish waters including the use of Food Standards Agency Sanitary Survey Reports.

At Loch Leven (UKS7992380), Scottish Water improved Kinlochleven STW in 2008. However, the site may also be subject to diffuse source pollution, so it is not predicted to achieve the guideline value for faecal coliforms until 2027. Source tracking studies are required at the earliest opportunity in order to identify the main sources of pollution.

Loch Creran (UKS7992332 and Cuil Bay (UKS7992342) are also not predicted to meet the guideline value for faecal coliforms until 2021 and 2027 respectively. Source tracking studies are required at the earliest opportunity to identify the main sources of pollution at these sites.

The Sound of Shuna (UKS7992397) met the guideline value for faecal coliforms in 2008 but due to failures in previous years there is low confidence that this will continue to be the case. Therefore, source tracking studies may also be needed at this site.