



## Classification summary

Ecological status (ES) or potential (EP)	No. WBs	WB ID	Name	WB category
High ES	2	100259	Loch Avich	Loch
		10277	River Avich (d/s Loch Avich)	River
Good ES	14	100237	Loch Tulla	Loch
		10271	Loch Awe/Clachandubh Burn/Socach Burn	River
		10273	Kames River	River
		10274	Allt Blarghour	River
		10275	Allt Beochlich	River
		10278	River Avich (u/s Loch Avich	River
		10279	Kilchrenan Burn	River
		10282	Teatle Water	River
		10286	River Lochy	River
		10287	Eas a Ghail	River
		10289	Allt Tolagan	River
		10291	Allt Bhreacnais	River
		10292	Water of Tulla	River
		150075	Loch Awe and Glenorchy	Groundwater
Good EP	2	10280	River Awe	River (HMWB)
		10293	Allt Mhoille	River (HMWB)
Moderate ES	2	100247	Loch Awe (South)	Loch
		10290	Abhainn Shira	River
Moderate EP	2	100340	Loch Awe (North)	Loch (HMWB)
		10272	Abhainn a Bhealaich	River (HMWB)
Poor ES	1	10285	River Orchy	River
Poor EP	1	10276	Abhainn Fionain	River (HMWB)
Bad ES	2	10270	River Liever	River
		10284	River Strae	River
Bad EP	2	10281	Cladich River/Allt an Stacain	River (HMWB)
		10288	Allt Kinglass	River (HMWB)

**Please note** that following discussions with Argyll and Lochaber area advisory group members, it has been agreed that splitting Loch Awe into two separate water bodies is not appropriate so Loch Awe (south) and Loch Awe (north) are shortly due to be merged into one heavily modified water body at moderate ecological potential. This will be reflected in future updates of this catchment summary. Until the change is finalised, they are discussed separately below.

## Protected areas

Protected area designation (PA)	Condition	PA ID	Name
Drinking water protection area	Meeting current standards	10284	River Strae
		10765	Allt Bocain
		10894	Allt Gruiniche
		10903	Allt Bocain
		10912	Unnamed tributary of the Cladich River
		150075	Loch Awe and Glen Orchy
Freshwater fish	Meeting required standards	UKS786599	River Awe
Special Area of Conservation (SAC) for mixed woodland and otter	Favourable <sup>1</sup>	UK0012750	Loch Etive Woods
SAC for (amongst other non-water dependent features) clear water lakes or lochs, fresh water pearl mussels and otter	Unfavourable for fresh water pearl mussels, favourable for other water dependent features	UK0012870	Rannoch Moor

## Pressures, measures and objectives summary

### No pressures – no deterioration objectives

No pressures exist on the water bodies at high and good ecological status. The objective for these is no deterioration in status by 2015. The appropriate mitigation measures are in place for the two heavily modified water bodies at good ecological potential. The objective for these is therefore also no deterioration in status by 2015.

### Point source pollution and invasive non-native species (INNS)

Elevated phosphorus levels from fresh water fish farming which are causing Loch Awe (South) (100247) to be at moderate ecological status are scheduled to be dealt with by 2024. Implementation by an earlier deadline would impose disproportionate burdens and a longer timescale has been set for this water body to reach good ecological status by 2027.

<sup>1</sup> 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. Included within sites in “favourable condition” are sites that are “unfavourable recovering”. This is because some features will take a long time to recover even when all appropriate measures are in place. When a feature is reported as “unfavourable recovering”, everything has been done to allow a feature to recover, but more time is needed before it could be reported as being in favourable condition. The target for Natura 2000 sites is therefore to reach “favourable” or “unfavourable recovering” condition.

The loch also only reaches a maximum status of good for the INNS part of the classification, due to the presence of *Elodea canadensis*, Canadian pondweed, an invasive non-native species.

### **Diffuse pollution**

The Abhainn Shira (10290) is at moderate ecological status for fish ecology which could be for one of a number of reasons. Low natural productivity has been noted in the lower catchment and the low numbers could also be result of marine survival issues. Investigations into the reasons for this are required and at present the water body is anticipated to reach good ecological status by 2027.

### **Water resources**

The River Strae (10284) is at bad ecological status due to an abstraction pressure from Dalmally Water Treatment Works. It is scheduled to be mitigated by Scottish Water by 2024 and therefore to reach good ecological status by 2027.

### **Water resources and morphology**

The River Orchy (10285) is at poor ecological status due to abstraction for a flow transfer to the Breadalbane hydroscheme and is also affected by morphology pressures from adjacent forestry. The forestry is scheduled to be restructured by 2024 and the abstraction pressure mitigated by 2026 which will allow the river to reach good ecological status by 2027. However, investigations will also be done to determine whether an alternative less stringent objective or heavily modified water body designation is more appropriate.

The River Liever (10270) is at bad ecological status due to abstraction and flow regulation pressures from Inverliever hydro scheme and is also affected by morphology pressures from adjacent forestry. By 2026 the forestry is scheduled to be restructured and the abstraction and flow regulation pressures mitigated which will allow the river to reach good ecological status by 2027. However, investigations will also be done to determine whether an alternative less stringent objective or heavily modified water body designation is more appropriate.

### **Heavily modified water bodies (HMWBs)**

Loch Awe (North) (100340) is heavily modified because of morphological (impoundment) pressures for hydropower power generation. The measure to mitigate for the drawdown has been screened out as would have a significant impact on use so it is at good ecological potential for this pressure. However, *overall*, the water body is at moderate ecological potential due to elevated phosphorus levels from fresh water fish farming which are scheduled to be dealt with by 2024. Implementation by an earlier deadline would impose disproportionate burdens and a longer timescale has been set for this water body to reach good ecological potential by 2027.

Abhainn a Bhealaich (10272) is heavily modified for abstraction and flow regulation pressures from Braevallich hydropower station. All appropriate mitigation measures are in place for it to be at good ecological potential for this pressure. However, *overall*, the water body is at moderate ecological potential due to morphology pressures from forestry adjacent to the water body. This forestry is scheduled to be restructured by 2020 which will allow the water body to reach good ecological potential by 2021.

Abhainn Fionain (10276) is heavily modified due to abstraction and flow regulation pressures from the Awe hydroscheme and is at poor ecological potential. It is also

affected by morphology pressures from the adjacent forestry. Appropriate mitigation measures to alleviate both these pressures are expected to be implemented, by Scottish and Southern Energy and the Forestry Commission Scotland respectively, by 2026 allowing this water body to reach good ecological potential by 2027.

Cladich River/Allt an Stacain (10281) is heavily modified due to abstraction and flow regulation pressures caused by the Shira hydroscheme and is at bad ecological potential. Appropriate mitigation measures are expected from Scottish and Southern Energy by 2026 allowing it to reach good ecological potential by 2027.

Allt Kinglas (10288) is heavily modified due to abstraction and flow regulation pressures caused by the Breadalbane hydro scheme and is at bad ecological potential. Appropriate mitigation measures are expected from Scottish and Southern Energy by 2026 allowing it to reach good ecological potential by 2027.

### **Protected Areas**

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

### **Special areas of conservation**

The reasons freshwater pearl mussels on Rannoch Moor (UK0012870) are in an unfavourable condition are not fully understood. Research is required to identify the cause, including potentially salmonid numbers, and design appropriate measures. The site is therefore not predicted to be in favourable condition until 2026.