

Argyll and Lochaber area management plan catchment summaries

River Leven (Lochaber) catchment

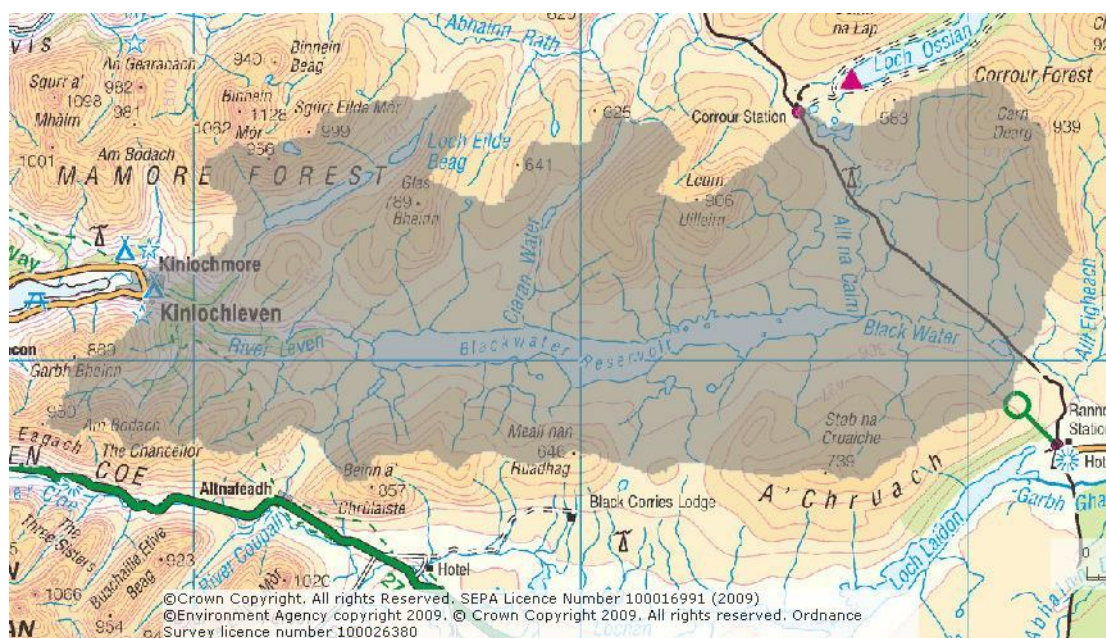
Introduction

The River Leven (Lochaber) catchment covers 192 km² from Kinlochleven west around the Blackwater Reservoir as shown by the grey shading in Map 1.

The catchment:

- contains nine water bodies, four of which are heavily modified water bodies (HMWBs);
- contains/is adjacent to four protected areas.

The main land-uses and water uses associated with catchment are open moorland and hydropower generation.



Map 1: Area covered by the River Leven (Lochaber) catchment shown in grey

Further information on River Leven (Lochaber) 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)	WB ID	Name	WB category
Good ES	20331	Black Water - reservoir to source	River
	20333	Allt na Slochdaig	River
	20334	Ciaran Water	River
	20335	Allt na Caim	River
	150067	Loch Linnhe	Groundwater
Good EP	100219	Blackwater Reservoir	Loch (HMWB)
	20330	River Leven - sea to Blackwater Reservoir	River (HMWB)
Bad EP	100217	Loch Eilde Mór	Loch (HMWB)
	20332	Allt na h-Eilde	River (HMWB)

Protected areas

Protected area (PA) designation	Condition	PA ID	Name
Drinking water protection zone	Meeting required standards	23617	Allt Coire Mhorair
		150067	Loch Linnhe
Freshwater fish	Meeting required standards	UKS7865971	River Leven (Highland)
Shellfish growing water	Failing guideline standards	UKS7992380	Loch Leven

Pressures, measures and objectives summary

No pressures – no deterioration objectives

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

Heavily modified water bodies (HMWBs)

Blackwater Reservoir (100219) and the River Leven – sea to Blackwater Reservoir (20330) are affected by abstraction and flow regulation pressures from the Kinlochleven power house, but are at good ecological potential. The former because as a mass storage reservoir, any compensation flows or other measures would significantly impact on its use and the latter because the flow regime is sufficient for sediment transfer, there are natural barriers downstream and any measures would have significant impacts on use. The objective for these water bodies is no deterioration in status by 2015.

Loch Eilde Mór (100217) and Allt na h-Eilde (20332) are at bad ecological potential due to the abstraction and flow regulation pressures from the Kinlochleven

hydropower station. A new separate storage hydro power scheme is proposed for Loch Eilde Mór and is now licensed under CAR. Alcan is scheduled to provide compensation flows to mitigate the present flow regulation pressures by 2014 through conditions of the CAR licence.

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.

Scottish Water has committed investment to improve the sewerage treatment network of the coastal communities around Loch Leven (UKS7992380) so as to remove/improve discharges to this waterbody. Improvements to Kinlochleven Sewage Treatment Works (STW) associated and upstream sewerage infrastructure was completed in 2008 and further improvements are presently being implemented at Glencoe, South Ballachulish and North Ballachulish. 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.