

1996 LOCH SURVEY: STRATHCLYDE* AREA

Code N.S.0801 Name LOCH TARSAN Grid Ref N5077891
 Date 20/6/96 Surveyors OLL/CLD Estate HYDROELECTRIC/TILHILL/ANGUNG ASSOC.
 Area 110.4 ha Altitude 120 m Catchment ha Geology 4.1
 Water colour COLOURLESS Clarity CLEAR Boat used YES Secchi disc depth 4.0 m
 Loch type 1 Edge type(s) S9a (NVC codes)
 Status - Access 1 Road/houses present (underline)
 Land use % Open water Semi-natural Forestry Agriculture

Substrate types (underline main type, tick others present)

- Bedrock
- Boulders (>30cm max. diam.)
- Stones (5-30cm diam.)
- Gravel (4-50mm diam.)
- Sand (0.1-4mm diam.)
- Silt (<0.1mm diam.)
- Organic mud
- Peat
- Artificial embankment

USES AND DAMAGE

Use	Observations
Adjacent forestry	<u>Coniferous plantation dominated the catchment (Tilhill)</u>
Agricultural pollution
Edge trampling
Fishing (edge/boat)	<u>2 boats available - fishing club (permit only fly fishing)</u>
Litter	<u>Drinks cans, plastic bottles</u>
Shooting
Water abstraction
Hydroelectricity	<u>HE reservoir</u>

SURROUNDING LAND USE:

CONIFEROUS PLANTATION

FAUNA

Mammals	Birds	Reptiles Amphibians	Fish	Dragonflies & other invertebrates
	<u>Common gulls + young</u>	<u>Rare temporary tadpoles</u>		

SPECIES DIVERSITY		RARE SPECIES	WATER CHEMISTRY	
Edge	<u>11</u>	Scarce (*)	Alkalinity	<u>0.06</u> meq/l
Open water	<u>3</u>	Red Data Book (**)	Conductivity	<u>54</u> µS/cm
Total	<u>13</u>		p.H.	<u>6.3</u>

DESCRIPTION: Loch Tarsan is a man-made waterbody managed by Hydroelectric (Scottish). The majority of the catchment is under coniferous plantation (of various aged stands) (Tillicull). At the time of survey the water level was at 397 (? feet) on the Tower Dam marker. The loch outline is therefore slightly different to the 1:10,000 map produced in the 1970's. As a result of the lowered water level, large areas of exposed stone/boulder draw-down zones occur around the entire perimeter of the loch. Several small farm buildings and dry stone walls are now exposed. The loch is stocked annually with trout by the Loch Tarsan Angling Association which have a boat house / two boats available for rent. The trout are apparently quite thin due to the limited food resources in the loch.

- ① Draw-down zone: exposed stones and boulders with extremely sparse vegetation cover - *Plantago lanceolatum*, *Achillea* sp., *Rumex acetosa*, *R. obtusifolia*, *Agg*, *Ta*, *Tb (t)*, *Vp*, *Crepis capillaris*, *Era*, *Cirsium vulgare*, *Sorbus aucuparia*.
- ② Grassy banks along loch edge: *Carum verticillatum*, *Rfl*, *Crepis palludosa*, *Cxk*, *Ranunculus repens*, *Festuca rubra*, *Equisetum arvense*, *Je*, *Agg*, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Poa annua*, *Succisa pratensis*, *Nardus stricta*, *Cxp*, *Galium aparine*, *Trifolium repens*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Salix aurita*, *Luzula multiflora*, *Polygonum sepium*.
- ③ Heath bank: *Erica tetralix*, *Succisa pratensis*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Pedicularis sylvaticum*, *Holcus lanatus*, *Myrica gale*, *Lotus uliginosus*, *Narthecium ossifragum*, *Sphagnum* sp., *Salix cinerea* agg., *Cxp*, *Trichophorum cespitosum*, *Molinia caerulea*, *Juncus squarrosus*, *Luzula multiflora*.
- ④ Peat beach: + *Tb (t)*, *Era*, *Cxd*, *Rfl* + small *Cxk* bed
- ⑤ Exposed lumps of bedrock: *Tb (t)*, *Tb (ag)*, *Callitriche* sp., sp.
- ⑥ Gently shelving inundation zones: *Cxk*, *Cxd*, *Rfl*, *Tb* on lower shore. Upper shore: *Era*, *Salix* spp., *Vp*, *Rfl*, *Gp*, *Cxk*, *Elp*, *Carum verticillatum*.
- ⑦ Seepage into sheltered bay: *Erf* and *Callitriche* sp. forming very sparse stands over fine sand + occ. *Tb (ag)* + *Agg*. *Cxk* + *Tb (t)* beds on banks
- ⑧ Old exposed sheep enclosure: *Cxk*, *Tb (t)*, *Gp*, *Rumex obtusifolius*, *Carum verticillatum*.
Loch shallows: *Erf*, *Tb (ag)*, (*Sporogonium* sp.)
- ⑨ Inflow channel: *Erf*, *Agg*, (*Gf*), (*Callitriche* sp.)