

## CITATION

**LONGBRIDGE MUIR**  
**SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST**  
Dumfries and Galloway

Site code: 1096

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: NY 050690

OS 1:50,000 SHEET NO: Landranger Series 84, 85  
1:25,000 SHEET NO: Explorer Series 322

AREA: 507.82 hectares

## NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES

**Biological: Bogs: Raised bog**

## DESCRIPTION

Longbridge Muir lies 5km south east of Dumfries and forms part of an extensive raised bog network around the inner Solway Firth and one of only two such sites remaining within Nithsdale. Longbridge Muir is also a remnant of the once extensive Lochar Moss, a complex of raised bog sites that remains unafforested and is especially notable for its extensive surface patterning of hummocks and hollows.

Much of the vegetation over the surface of the open mire is dominated by hare's-tail cottongrass *Eriophorum vaginatum*, cross-leaved heath, heather and bog myrtle along with bog mosses such as *Sphagnum papillosum*, *S. magellanicum* and *S. capillifolium* and the lichen *Cladonia portentosa*. Towards the centre of the site this vegetation is confined to low ridges or hummocks between which lie pools or hollows dominated by *Sphagnum cuspidatum* and in which grow white beak-sedge *Rhynchospora alba*, common cottongrass *Eriophorum angustifolium*, bog asphodel, bogbean *Menyanthes trifoliata*, oblong-leaved sundew *Drosera intermedia* and great sundew *D. anglica*. Other species that are present and typical of raised bogs include cranberry *Vaccinium oxycoccos*, round-leaved sundew *Drosera rotundifolia* and bog-rosemary *Andromeda polifolia*. The plant communities around the drier margins are dominated by purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea*, birch and willow.

The extent of the surface patterning of hummocks and hollows is a major feature of this site both because it indicates an undisturbed bog surface and because patterning on this scale does not occur on any other comparable site to the south and east in Britain. Additional features of interest include the large heath and Scotch argus butterflies, adder and common lizard also occur and the area is used by wintering birds of prey.

## **NOTIFICATION HISTORY**

First notified under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981: 8 October 1991.  
Notification reviewed under the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004:  
15 July 2010.

## **REMARKS**

Measured area of site corrected (from 513.6 ha).

Longbridge Muir SSSI is part of Solway Mosses North Special Area of Conservation (SAC) which is designated for the European habitats listed below.

Habitats:       Active raised bog  
                  Degraded raised bog