



Scottish Natural Heritage

PARK HILL AND TIPPERTON MOSSES
Site of Special Scientific Interest

SNH
46 Crossgate
Cupar
KY15 5HS

SITE MANAGEMENT STATEMENT

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Site code: 1273

Purpose



This is a public statement prepared by SNH for owners and occupiers of the SSSI. It outlines the reasons it is designated as an SSSI and provides guidance on how its special natural features should be conserved or enhanced. This Statement does not affect or form part of the statutory notification and does not remove the need to apply for consent for operations requiring consent.

We welcome your views on this statement.

Description of the site

Park Hill and Tipperton Mosses Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) consists of three mosses located in the Cleish Hills to the west of Loch Glow, about 8 km north of Dunfermline. The site contains the only remaining unafforested examples of upland raised mire in Fife together with a large area of relatively undisturbed blanket bog. There are a number of locally uncommon vascular plants such as water sedge and cranberry and colonies of the rare tall-bog sedge. Two locally rare butterflies, the large heath and the green hairstreak are found on the site, and red grouse, which is rare in Fife, are known to breed here.

The 2008 site condition monitoring (SCM) assessment found the bog feature to be in favourable condition. This survey concluded that currently there are sufficient 'positive indicator' plant species present to show that the conditions on the bog are favourable for the maintenance of the habitat. It did note however that improved water management of the bog feature would be required to maintain this condition. It recommended that this should involve some blocking of drains, particularly those leading to Loch Glow. This will help to reduce the volume of water currently draining from the bog area.

Natural features of Park Hill and Tipperton Mosses SSSI	Condition of feature (and date monitored)
Raised bog	Favourable, maintained (September 2008)



Tipperton Moss and the adjacent Loch Glow Reservoir



Park Hill

Past and present management

The Mosses are part of a larger management unit which is grazed by Scottish blackface sheep. Some drainage has occurred on all three mosses; near Black Loch and Loch Glow on Black Loch Moss and Tipperton Moss, whilst Park Hill Moss has a central ditch with a few tributary ditches. The site has been used for extensive sheep grazing for a number of years.

Much of the SSSI is under a long-term SNH management agreement, which supports the current grazing regime on the site. The grazing level is currently appropriate for helping to maintain the condition of the site feature.

In the future the site could benefit from entry into an appropriate Rural Development Contract (RDC) scheme, run under the Scottish Rural Development Programme (SRDP) (available 2007-2013). This could offer benefits for positive habitat management and should aim to protect and enhance the nature conservation value of the site. Ideally, this would include the production of a management plan, encompassing prescriptions for ditch-blocking, which could then inform an application for land management funding under SRDP.

Objectives for Management (and key factors influencing the condition of natural features)

We wish to work with the owner and occupier to protect the site and to maintain and where necessary enhance its features of special interest. SNH aims to carry out site survey, monitoring and research as appropriate to increase our knowledge and understanding of the site and its natural features and monitor the effectiveness of the management agreement.

1. Maintain the current area of raised mire and blanket bog (65 ha) by maintaining the hydrological integrity of the site, including some blocking of drains, particularly those leading to Loch Glow. This will help reduce the volume of water draining from the bog area. This work could be carried out through a RDC.
2. Maintain the current grazing level, which is appropriate for helping to maintain the condition of the site feature.

Date of last review: 20 April 2010