

CITATION

**PITKEATHLY MIRES
SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST**
Perth and Kinross

Site code: 1293

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: NO 109143

OS 1:50,000 SHEET NO: Landranger Series 58
1:25,000 SHEET NO: Explorer Series 369

AREA: 61.49 ha

NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES

Biological: Fens: Basin fen

DESCRIPTION

Pitkeathly Mires lies just over 4 kilometres south-west of Bridge of Earn on the north side of the Ochil Hills at a height of 250m. The site is of importance for its series of upland basin mires which contains extensive and undisturbed areas of nutrient-poor and intermediate fen, and flush vegetation.

The site supports several different types of fen vegetation. Bottle sedge *Carex rostrata* is a conspicuous component of these communities: the intermediate-fen has a wide variety of other species, and the poor-fen is less species-rich but with significant amounts of *Sphagnum* moss. Within the four main basins there are good examples of hydroseral zonation where the vegetation changes from an unstable 'quaking' surface" (known as "Schwingmoor" where there are layers of peat separated by lenses of water) to *Sphagnum*-dominated areas, and to where spring water comes to the surface in flushes.

The site contains a number of plant species of restricted distribution including two species of moss, a liverwort, several types of sedge and hairy stonecrop *Sedum villosum* which occurs in the flushed vegetation.

NOTIFICATION HISTORY

First notified under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949: 1972

Re-notified under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981: 15 December 1983

Reviewed under the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004: 28 July 2009

REMARKS

Measured area of site corrected (from 61.2 ha)

Pitkeathly Mires SSSI overlaps Pitkeathly Mires Special Area of Conservation (SAC) which is designated for the European habitat and species listed below:

Species: Slender green feather-moss *Drepanocladus vernicosus* (now known as varnished hook-moss *Hamatocaulis vernicosus*)

Habitat: Very wet mires often identified by an unstable 'quaking' surface