

## CITATION

**RORA MOSS**  
**SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST**  
Aberdeenshire

Site code: 1371

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: NK042516

OS 1: 50 000 SHEET NO: Landranger Series 30  
1: 25 000 SHEET NO: Explorer Series 427

AREA: 164.7 hectares

## NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES

Biological : Bogs : Raised bog

## DESCRIPTION

Rora Moss is located 10 km north-west of Peterhead. It is the second largest lowland raised bog in Aberdeenshire with a significant area of uncut dome and associated cut-over areas.

Rora Moss retains a relatively large area of primary dome in comparison with other lowland raised bogs in Aberdeenshire. The structure and peat archive of the dome is intact but the hydrology has been modified by past management. The vegetation on the primary bog is dominated by ling heather *Calluna vulgaris* with widespread hare's-tail cotton grass *Eriophorum vaginatum* and cross-leaved heath *Erica tetralix* and scattered patches of bog mosses, mainly *Sphagnum capillifolium*.

The area surrounding the primary bog and extending to the edge of the moss has mostly been cut over. These cuttings often retain deep peat and are essential for restoring the hydrology of the remaining dome. In some of these old peat cuttings where the water table is closer to the surface than on the primary bog, there is more active peat-forming vegetation. Hare's tail cotton grass frequently replaces ling heather in dominance and bog asphodel *Narthecium ossifragum* and deer-grass *Trichophorum cespitosum* are more frequent. Bog mosses are both more common and diverse and include *S. fimbriatum*, *S. papillosum*, *S. capillifolium* and *S. subnitens*.

## NOTIFICATION HISTORY

First notified under the 1949 Act as Moss of Rora in 1965. De-notified in 1986.  
Re-notified under the 1981 Act: 3 April 1995.  
Notification reviewed under the 2004 Act: 23 June 2011.

## REMARKS

Measured area of site corrected (from 165.2 ha).