

**CITATION****BLAWHORN MOSS  
SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST****West Lothian**

Site code: 230

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: NS 886684

OS 1:50,000 SHEET NO: Landranger series - 65  
1:25,000 SHEET NO: Explorer series - 349

AREA: 109 ha.

**NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES:**

Biological: Bogs: Raised bog

**DESCRIPTION:**

The largest and least disturbed area of raised bog in central Scotland. The bog surface exhibits a well-developed hummock and hollow topography and supports representative examples of bog plant species. Peatland is an uncommon and decreasing habitat in the lowland area of the Lothians.

Blawhorn Moss is a confined raised bog, an unusual type of peatland developed mainly in central Scotland and is of further interest in that on one side it grades into blanket bog, although this is not a notified feature of the site. The present vegetation of Blawhorn Moss and the resultant communities are representative of a composite of raised and blanket bog conditions. Although much of the site supports primary raised bog habitat, over large areas the topography and vegetation communities suggest that it may be more appropriately described as primary blanket bog.

The open raised bog vegetation is especially sphagnum rich, with short heather and blaeberry. A small flush near the centre contains a range of species not found elsewhere on the site and includes lesser tussock sedge, bog pondweed and marsh speedwell.

**NOTIFICATION HISTORY**

First notified under the 1949 Act: 1 January 1971.

Re-notified under the 1981 Act: 26 July 1984 with a 17.64ha decrease in area.

Notification reviewed under the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004: 02 April 2008.

**REMARKS**

Measured area of site corrected (from 109.43ha).

The SSSI is contiguous with Blawhorn Moss Special Area of Conservation (SAC) for the European Habitats listed below.

Habitats: Active raised bog  
Degraded raised bog