

## CITATION

**AKERMOOR LOCH**  
**SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST**  
Scottish Borders

Site code: 29

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: NT 407210

OS 1:50,000 SHEET NO: Landranger Series 73  
1:25,000 SHEET NO: Explorer Series 337

AREA: 16.07 hectares

## NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES

**Biological: Freshwater habitats: Mesotrophic Loch**

### DESCRIPTION

Akermoor Loch Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) is a mesotrophic loch located approximately 4 km south east of Kirkhope. Mesotrophic waterbodies (those with a moderate nutrient status) are rare in the UK and threatened due to their vulnerability to nutrient enrichment. Of the few remaining mesotrophic lochs in the Scottish Borders, Akermoor Loch SSSI is notable for its rich diversity of aquatic flora and invertebrate fauna. The site is of further interest due to its location, 318m above sea level, as upland lochs are typically low in nutrients (oligotrophic).

The SSSI is set in a Silurian rock catchment with surrounding acid grassland and heath, despite this Akermoor loch is relatively basic (50-60 mg/1 calcium carbonate) and rich in plant nutrients. These physical attributes are reflected in the algal populations – in particular the abundance of characteristic diatoms, as well as in the zooplankton and benthic fauna which includes the flatworm *Dugesia lugubris* and other species typical of eutrophic conditions.

Five species of pondweeds *Potamogeton* are recorded within the SSSI, including the nationally scarce *Potamogeton filiformis*, together with the uncommon stonewort *Chara globularis* and starwort *Callitriche hermaphroditica*, a northern and western species here nearing its south-eastern limits.

Sections of the adjacent grassland and heath are also within the SSSI. These contain typical acid-neutral upland species with localised base-rich flushes bearing alpine rush *Juncus alpinoarticulatus*, grass of parnassus *Parnassia palustris*, quaking grass *Briza media* and 'brown moss' communities which throughout the basic turf hold regionally rare mosses including *Homalothecium nitens*, *Campylium elodes*, *Entodon concinnus* and *Thuidium delicatulum*.

### NOTIFICATION HISTORY

First notified under the 1949 Act: 1971

Re-notified under the 1981 Act: 19 May 1986 with a 1.4 ha increase in area  
Notification reviewed under the 2004 Act: 2 June 2010

## **REMARKS**

Measured area of site corrected (from 16.1 ha).