

CITATION

ALEMOOR WEST LOCH & MEADOW SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST

Scottish Borders

Site code: 32

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: NT 389148

OS 1:50,000 SHEET NO: Landranger Series 79
1:25,000 SHEET NO: Explorer Series 331

AREA: 35.58 hectares

NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES

Biological: **Fens:** **Flood-plain fen**
Vascular plants: **Vascular plant assemblage**

DESCRIPTION

Alemoor West Loch & Meadow Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) is located 12 km west of Hawick. The West Loch is the section of Alemoor Reservoir that lies to the southwest of the bridge on the B711 crossing the Reservoir. The meadow, or flood-plain fen, is located around the point where the Ale Water enters the head of the reservoir.

The flood-plain fen is one of the few remaining examples of this habitat in the Scottish Borders. Although not notified features, there are small areas of species-rich grass heaths and two very small raised mire systems associated with the fen.

The site supports a large number of plant species including more national rarities than any other site in the area, as well as several that are now regionally rare. The notified plant assemblage consists of the nationally rare narrow small-reed *Calamagrostis stricta*, Scottish small-reed *Calamagrostis scotica*, holy grass *Hierochloe odorata*, and the nationally scarce fibrous tussock sedge *Carex appropinquata* and alpine rush *Juncus alpinoarticulatus*.

The site is not notified for its bird interest, however the whole of the reservoir is a regionally important roosting, feeding and nesting area for a wide range of wildfowl and waders, and as a stop-over for migrant waders on autumn passage.

NOTIFICATION HISTORY

First notified under the 1981 Act: 17 October 1983
Notification reviewed under the 2004 Act: 9 December 2010

REMARKS

Measured area of site corrected (from 35.9 ha).

Part of Alemoor West Loch & Meadow SSSI is part of the Tweed River SSSI (1949 Act site), which is notified for the feature: Trophic range river/stream.