

**CITATION****CARSTAIRS KAMES  
SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST  
South Lanarkshire**

Site code: 338

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: NS 961474

OS 1:50,000 SHEET NO: Landranger Series 72  
1:25,000 SHEET NO: Explorer Series 343

AREA: 160.27 hectares

**NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES****Geological: Quaternary geology and geomorphology: Quaternary of Scotland****DESCRIPTION**

Carstairs Kames Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) lies less than 0.5km north of Carstairs and illustrates one of the most striking and important groups of glacial landforms in Britain. Extending over a distance of 6km, the site comprises a series of braided sand and gravel ridges (eskers) and mounds (kames) with intervening peat-filled hollows (kettle holes). These features, which reach an exceptional height of 25 metres above the surrounding topography, are the product of glacial meltwater charged with sediment draining out from the front of the last ice sheet as it retreated approximately 15,000 years ago. Carstairs Kames is a historically important site that has been a focus of scientific study for over 160 years, and it remains a key locality today for interpreting the processes and patterns of landscape development associated with ice sheet melting.

**NOTIFICATION HISTORY**

First notified under the 1949 Act: 1953, 1975 and 1980 with a 26ha increase in area  
Re-notified under the 1981 Act: 11 November 1983 with a 80.65 ha overall reduction in area

Notification reviewed under the 2004 Act: 16 July 2010

Partial denotification under the 2004 Act: 29 February 2016 with a 1.78ha reduction in area