

CITATION

COBBINSHAW MOSS
SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST
West Lothian / South Lanarkshire

Site code: 373

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: NT 035570

OS 1:50,000 SHEET NO: Landranger Series 65
1:25,000 SHEET NO: Explorer Sheet 344

AREA: 490.66 hectares

NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES:

Biological: Bogs: Intermediate bog (blanket)

DESCRIPTION:

Cobbinshaw Moss is one of the largest examples of an intermediate bog remaining in Great Britain. The Moss lies on the transition between lowland and upland environments in the western foothills of the Pentland Hills, north of the village of Tarbrax, at an altitude of approximately 300 metres. It is more accurately defined as an intermediate blanket mire complex than as a series of interlinked lowland raised mires.

The site is remarkable for the sheer extent of actively growing peat bog vegetation which can be found across its central expanse. Whereas a number of other peatland sites in this part of Scotland have been lost to commercial peat extraction or afforestation, Cobbinshaw Moss, though affected by both these activities to some extent, has retained a remarkable extent of relatively natural vegetation over much of its expanse. Seven species of the bog moss *Sphagnum* are found in significant quantities, while in drier parts the vegetation is dominated by a patchwork of cross-leaved heath and heather.

Many parts of the site still retain a completely natural surface pattern consisting of soft, low hummocks and shallow hollows or water-filled pools, which appear better developed than on any other site in south-central Scotland. This level of patterning on Cobbinshaw Moss, combined with the generally *Sphagnum*-rich nature of the mire expanse, identifies it as a key site of national importance in the network of sites throughout Britain displaying such a natural surface topography.

NOTIFICATION HISTORY

First notified under the 1981 Act: 05 November 1992
Notification reviewed under the 2004 Act: 28 October 2008

REMARKS

Measured area of site corrected (from 493.8 ha).
The site lies adjacent to Cobbinshaw Reservoir SSSI.