

CITATION

ABBAY ST BATHANS WOODLANDS SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST

Scottish Borders

Site code: 4

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: NT 738633, NT 752626, NT 761623, NT 770613,
NT 775604, NT 787605, NT 792610

OS 1:50,000 SHEET NO: Landranger Series 67
1:25,000 SHEET NO: Explorer Series 346

AREA: 62.9 hectares

NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES

Biological: Woodlands: Upland oak woodland
: Non-vascular plants: Lichen assemblage

DESCRIPTION

Abbey St Bathans Woodlands Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), located adjacent to Abbey St Bathans approximately 21 km west of Eyemouth, is a composite site comprised of seven woodland compartments which occur along the valleys of the Monynut Water and Whiteadder Water. Together the woodland compartments constitute more than one third of the remaining ancient deciduous woodland in Berwickshire. The SSSI is also one of the most important woodland sites in the Borders district for its rich lichen flora and supports several locally rare and declining species.

The separate woodland compartments vary in size and character and cover a range of woodland types, including dry sessile oakwood with birch and juniper, mixed oak-elm-hazelwood with ash and flushed birch-alderwood. Despite extensive woodland clearances across Scotland during the 12th Century Abbey, St Bathans Woodlands SSSI has had continuous woodland cover throughout historical times.

Associated with the woodlands is a rich lichen flora including several nationally scarce species such as *Micarea myriocarpa*, *Lecania cyrtellina* and *Psilolechia clavulifera*. The site also supports the ancient woodland indicator species *Loxospora elatina* and *Pertusaria hemisphaerica*.

NOTIFICATION HISTORY

First notified under the 1949 Act: 1961

Re-notified under the 1981 Act: 14 February 1986 with a 40.8 ha increase in area.

Notification reviewed under the 2004 Act: 26 November 2010

REMARKS

Measured area of site corrected (from 65.2 ha).

Part of Abbey St Bathans SSSI is part of the River Tweed Special Area of Conservation (SAC) designated for the European habitats and species listed below:

Habitats : Rivers with floating vegetation often dominated by water-crowfoot

Species : Otter (*Lutra lutra*)
: Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*)
: Brook lamprey (*Lampetra planeri*)
: River lamprey (*Lampetra fluviatilis*)
: Sea lamprey (*Petromyzon marinus*)

Part of Abbey St Bathans SSSI is also part of the River Tweed SSSI designated for the habitats and species listed below:

Habitats : Trophic range river/stream
Vascular plant assemblage

Species : Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar*
Brook lamprey *Lampetra planeri*
River lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis*
Sea lamprey *Petromyzon marinus*
Beetle assemblage
Fly assemblage