

CITATION

GREENLAW MOOR
SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST
Scottish Borders

Site code: 743

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: NT 712495

OS 1:50,000 SHEET NO: Landranger Series 67
1:25,000 SHEET NO: Explorer Series 339

AREA: 1171.92 hectares

NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES

Geological: Quaternary geology and geomorphology: Quaternary of Scotland

Biological: Bogs: Raised bog
Birds: Breeding bird assemblage
Birds: Pink-footed goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*), non-breeding

DESCRIPTION

Greenlaw Moor Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) lies in the Scottish Borders on the southern slopes of the Lammermuir Hills between the A6105 Earlston to Duns and B6456 Duns to Westruther road, some 7 km west of Duns. This composite site includes a wide range of features of national importance arising mainly from the effects of pronounced fluvio-glacial activity.

The Bedshiel Kaims located within the SSSI are considered the best example of a single-ridged esker in Scotland. Although the esker is relatively small (c. 5km long) and isolated compared to other notable esker systems in Scotland, it has a high conservation value because of its isolated upland location, its association with subglacial meltwater channels of the same age and its relatively intact state. The Bedshiel Kaims document the early stages of englacial and subglacial meltwater drainage associated with an ice stream draining the Scottish sector of the Dimlington Stadial ice sheet. Moreover, the spatial continuum of nearby meltwater channels and the esker provides clear evidence of waning discharge and sediment carrying capacity due to changes in subglacial bed slope.

Bedshiel Kaims form a distinctive esker ridge to the north and west, and have impeded the drainage outflow from the south resulting in a well developed example of confined raised bog, Dogden Moss. The flora of this bog is typical, though modified by human management. There is a good range of bog and other mosses and liverworts, including *Sphagnum imbricatum sensu lato* which is unusual at such an eastern low-rainfall locality.

Greenlaw Moor SSSI is notified for its breeding bird assemblage which includes waders and other species such as golden plover, red grouse, short eared owl and black grouse all of which are partly dependent on the very extensive area of open

heather moor which slopes gently eastwards from Dogden Moss to an altitude of 285m on Kyles Hill. The bird assemblage is enhanced by species typical of the other habitats within the SSSI: open water, raised bog and the woodland at Kyles Hill and Scots pine scattered across the east of the site. This and the variety of open habitats and scattered Scots pine support a diverse range of upland and woodland breeding bird species, including several Schedule 1 species.

Two apparent “kettle-holes”, Hule Moss, within the moorland are a focal point for nationally important numbers of roosting pink-footed geese *Anser brachyrhynchus* and regularly hold between 3-6% of the British wintering population. The pools are also of local importance for other passage and wintering wildfowl and waders.

NOTIFICATION HISTORY

First notified under the 1949 Act: 1961, 1971 as Bedshiel Kaims SSSI, Hule Moss SSSI; 1975 as Greenlaw Moor SSSI.

Re-notified under the 1981 Act: 22 January 1987 with a 22.8 ha decrease in area.

Notification reviewed under the 2004 Act: 22 February 2011

REMARKS

Measured area of site corrected (from 1175 ha).

Part of Greenlaw Moor SSSI is designated as Dogden Moss special area of conservation (SAC) for the European habitat listed below. Part of Greenlaw Moor SSSI is designated as Greenlaw Moor special protection area (SPA) for the birds listed below.

Habitat: Active raised bog

Birds: Pink-footed goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*), non-breeding