

CITATION

HABBIES HOWE – LOGAN BURN SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST

Midlothian

Site code: 757

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: NT 184618

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

AREA: 4.99 hectares

NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES

Biological : **Non-vascular plants** : **Bryophyte assemblage**
: **Non-vascular plants** : **Lichen assemblage**

DESCRIPTION

Habbies Howe – Logan Burn Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) is located in the Pentland Hills Regional Park, close to Loganlea Reservoir and below Scald Law. The site comprises a steep-sided ravine cut into old red sandstone conglomerate, with a number of base-rich intrusions. The ravine itself has a series of waterfalls, numerous rock outcrops and many unstable slopes with intermittent landslips. This combination of geology and geomorphology has resulted in a complex site with a variety of important bryophyte and lichen habitats. The site is of great regional importance as the only known Lothian locality for a number of species.

The site has a long history of bryophyte recording with an exceptionally large number of species recorded for such a small area in the east of Scotland (288 species). Of these, fourteen species are nationally scarce in the UK. These include montane, base-loving species such as the fringed extinguisher-moss *Encalypta ciliata*.

One hundred and fifty lichen species have been recorded, including fifteen that are nationally scarce in the UK. This is the only known Lothian locality for five species including the distinctive green *Peltigera britannica* and bushy *Sphaerophorus globosus*.

Several of the lime-loving plant species found here are uncommon in Scotland. Also present, are areas of relict birch, rowan, juniper and aspen scrub, which add to the overall interest of the site.

NOTIFICATION HISTORY

First notified under the 1949 Act: 1957, 1972 as Habbies Howe, Logan Burn SSSI

Re-notified under the 1981 Act: 22 August 1985 with a 3 ha decrease in area.

Notification reviewed under the 2004 Act: 12 April 2011

REMARKS

Measured area of site corrected (from 5.5 ha).