

## CITATION

**LAMMERMUIR DEANS  
SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST**  
East Lothian

Site code: 904

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: NT 688703 to NT 708707 and  
NT 698687 to NT 710699

OS 1:50,000 SHEET NO: Landranger Series 67  
1:25,000 SHEET NO: Explorer Series 351

AREA: 49.89 hectares

## NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES

**Geological : Geomorphology : Fluvial geomorphology of Scotland**  
**Biological : Woodlands : Upland mixed ash woodland**  
: **Upland habitats : Subalpine calcareous grassland**  
: **Fens : Valley fen**

## DESCRIPTION

Lammermuir Deans Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) is located approximately 3km west of Oldhamstocks village in East Lothian. This composite site is in two parts covering Sheeppath Glen, Burn Hope, Bladding Cleugh and Ling Hope. The site comprises several steep valleys (deans) which are the most extensive and least modified cleughs (gorges) incised through calciferous rocks in East Lothian.

### **Fluvial geomorphology of Scotland**

Ling Hope, the most south-easterly of the cleughs in the SSSI, is important as an exceptional example of rapid mass-wasting and incision of a stream into weak bedrock. The most recent storm capable of triggering large-scale mass-wasting was in August 1948, during which much of the valley floor was remodelled. More recent storm and flood events have reworked debris on the valley floor with minor new erosion debris from the valley sides; but larger scale mass-wasting could occur again in future.

### **Upland mixed ash woodland**

The cleughs contain deciduous woodland which is uncommon in the context of the surrounding heath and grassland. The woodlands are mixed, with ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, oak *Quercus* spp., birch *Betula* spp., hazel *Corylus avellana*, rowan *Sorbus aucuparia* and other species.

### **Subalpine calcareous grassland**

Calcareous (mineral-rich) grasslands are found at Lammermuir Deans, principally found in Burn Hope Cleugh, which includes sheep's-fescue *Festuca ovina* and common bent *Agrostis capillaris*. These are common species in the UK but this particular habitat type is rare and declining in the context of East Lothian.

### **Valley fen**

Valley fen marsh habitats are also rare and declining in East Lothian, and the Lammermuir Deans contain a mix of fen habitats dominated by soft rush *Juncus effusus* and sharp-flowered rush *Juncus acutiflorus* and contain the rare plants hairy stonecrop *Sedum villosum* and grass-of-parnassus *Parnassia palustris*.

These cleughs also support a number of rare mosses, liverworts and lichens such as the rare lichen *Graphis elegans*.

### **NOTIFICATION HISTORY**

First notified under the 1949 Act: 1972, 1977

Re-notified under the 1981 Act: 15 August 1983

Notification reviewed under the 2004 Act: 13 October 2010 and 31 May 2016 (citation only)

### **REMARKS**

Measured area of site corrected (from 50.1 ha).