

Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the conservation of wild birds (this is the codified version of Directive 79/409/EEC as amended)

## **CITATION FOR SPECIAL PROTECTION AREA (SPA)**

### **MUIRKIRK AND NORTH LOWTHER UPLANDS (UK9003261)**

#### **INCLUDING EXTENSION AT ANDERSIDE FLOW**

#### **Site Description:**

Muirkirk and North Lowther Uplands SPA comprises three adjacent upland areas (situated to the north and south of the town of Muirkirk, and the northern Lowther Hills), together with Airds Moss, a low-lying blanket bog situated between the two upland areas of north and south Muirkirk. The predominant habitats include semi-natural areas of blanket bog, acid grassland and heath.

The boundaries of the SPA are coincident with those of North Lowther Uplands SSSI, Blood Moss and Slot Burn SSSI, Garpel Water SSSI, Ree Burn and Glenbuck Loch SSSI and coincident with those of Muirkirk Uplands SSSI, except for the exclusion of the Upper Heilar and Tarmac forestry plantations on Airds Moss and the exclusion of Blood Moss, south of Dalblair. The SPA extension at Anderside Flow follows the SSSI extension.

**Qualifying interest** N.B All figures relate to numbers at the time of classification:

Muirkirk and North Lowther Uplands SPA qualifies under **Article 4.1** by regularly supporting populations of European importance of the **Annex 1** species: **hen harrier** *Circus cyaneus* (between 1994 and 1998, an average of 29.2 breeding females, 6% of the GB population and between 1991 and 1995, an average of 12 individuals, 2% of the GB population); **short-eared owl** *Asio flammeus* (between 1997 and 1998, an average of 26 pairs, 3% of the GB population); **merlin** *Falco columbarius* (between 1989 and 1998, an average of 9 pairs, 0.7% of the GB population and selected as one of the most suitable sites for merlin in GB); **peregrine** *Falco peregrinus* (between 1992 and 1996, an average of 6 pairs, 0.5% of the GB population and selected as one of the most suitable sites for peregrine in GB); and, **golden plover** *Pluvialis apricaria* (1999, an estimated minimum of 154 pairs, 0.7% of the GB population and selected as one of the most suitable sites for golden plover in GB).

Area: 26,832.47 ha

National Grid References: NS674209

OS Sheet 1:50,000 – 71

Classified on 7 March 2003, Anderside Flow extension 3 July 2018.