

24. Holburn Lake and Moss

Geographical Coordinates 55°37'N 1°57'W

Area 22ha

Location About 10km inland from the coast, some 17km south-south-east of the town of Berwick-upon-Tweed, in the county of Northumberland, in north-easternmost England.

Date of Ramsar Designation 17 July 1985.

Other International Designations Special Protection Area under EC Directive 79/409

National Designations Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

Principal Features A small artificial lake created in 1934 and an adjacent area of mire. The vegetation in the mire is dominated variously by *Sphagnum* mosses, *Calluna vulgaris*, *Erica tetralix* and *Eriophorum angustifolium*. An island in the lake supports a large stand of *Typha latifolia*. The lake is a roost site for internationally important numbers of *Anser anser* (average peak count for the five winters 1987/88 to 1991/92 was 2,438). (1a,3b,3c)

Conservation Issues 60% of Holburn Moss was damaged in 1990 as a result of uncontrolled heather burning and there has been little regeneration of the vegetation to date. Drainage has damaged the site in the past, but this is now being controlled through the damming of ditches in order to retain water. This work is being carried out under the terms of a 15 year (from 1991) management agreement between English Nature and the site owner. A recent planning application to extend an area of nearby peat extraction was approved in 1992, subject to conditions providing for monitoring of the Ramsar site and other safeguards. Some disturbance has been caused by public use of nearby footpaths, even though access to the site itself is strictly limited.