

HISTORY

The area was originally a wet bog until the early 1960s when it was dammed to form a small lochan of about two hectares, which was stocked with rainbow trout.

The land above the water level was drained and planted with Sitka spruce almost everywhere. Although most of the trees have now been removed, the deep drainage furrows are still evident all around the reserve.

In 1964, a pair of rare black-necked grebes attempted to breed but, unfortunately, fluctuating water levels meant failure. This prompted the Scottish Wildlife Trust to approach the owners with a view to designating the area as a nature reserve and this happened in 1966. Sadly the grebes never returned but the lochan's future as a refuge for wildfowl was secured.

MANAGEMENT

In recent years, paths have been upgraded to allow visitor access to the most interesting parts of the reserve. The excellent 'Arthur Smith Hide' was erected in memory of the Selkirk naturalist who had a long association with both the Trust and Hare Moss itself.

A floating island was constructed by the Trust's Conservation Team for the wildfowl to use for preening and resting and several nest boxes, made by local schoolchildren, have been erected for smaller birds.

Future management plans include the installation of a nature trail and improved visitor facilities.

ABOUT US

Hare Moss is managed jointly by local volunteer members from the Central Borders Members Centre and the Trust's Reserve Project Group. The Scottish Wildlife Trust is a registered charity, whose prime aim is to protect Scotland's wildlife for the future, through reserves like this and others throughout the Scottish Borders, for the benefit of present and future generations. Why not join us in our fight—the need is urgent and the benefits are great.

For further details of membership and how you can get involved, contact:-

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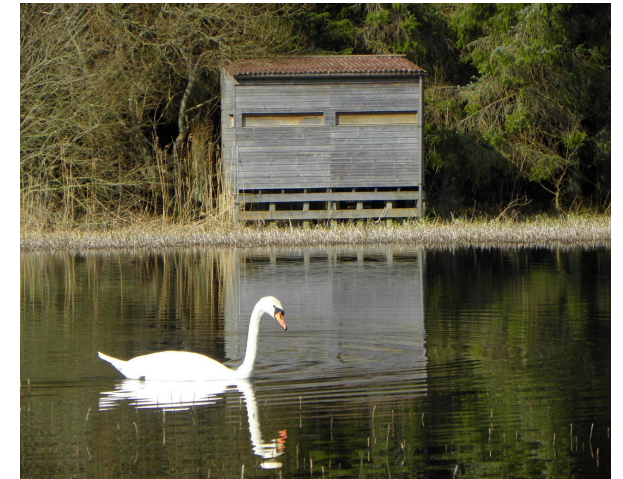
Or visit our website at

scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk

The Scottish Wildlife Trust is a company limited by guarantee, registered in Scotland (registered number SC040247) having its registered office at the above address. It is also a Scottish registered charity (charity number SC005792)



HARE MOSS



Welcome to Hare Moss reserve.

We hope you enjoy your visit.

Please leave everything as you find

it and take your litter home.

We would love to know what

you see so please record your

sightings in the hide diary.

ACCESS

Hare Moss lies to the east of the A7 road between Selkirk and Hawick, about 3km north of Ashkirk, near the television mast.

There is a convenient parking area off the A7 near the reserve, which is accessed by looking out for the triangular road junction signs then entering between two white pillars (there is also a reserve sign at this point). This is a disused section of the old main road and parking is at the far end.

From here go through the small gate and follow the wall until you reach another small gate, which is the entrance to the reserve.

Once into the reserve, you can either follow the right hand path which follows the edge of the lochan then loops round a dry hillock, giving good views of the reserve, or bear left and head for the bird hide, where more information about Hare Moss is available.

** Please take extra care when rejoining the A7 from the parking area as the approaching traffic can be extremely fast moving.*



WILDLIFE

The lochan provides a wintering site for several species of wildfowl including tufted duck, goldeneye, pochard, mallard and occasionally whooper swans.

Regular breeding wildfowl include coot, moorhen, tufted duck, little grebe and mute swan—all of which can be watched from the comfort of the bird hide.

Not so easy to spot, but the piercing squeal of breeding water rail can often be heard in spring, in the dense reed beds.

Spring songsters include sedge and willow warbler, reed bunting, goldcrest, wren and robin, while swallows and martins swoop over the water to gather up the myriads of flying insects.

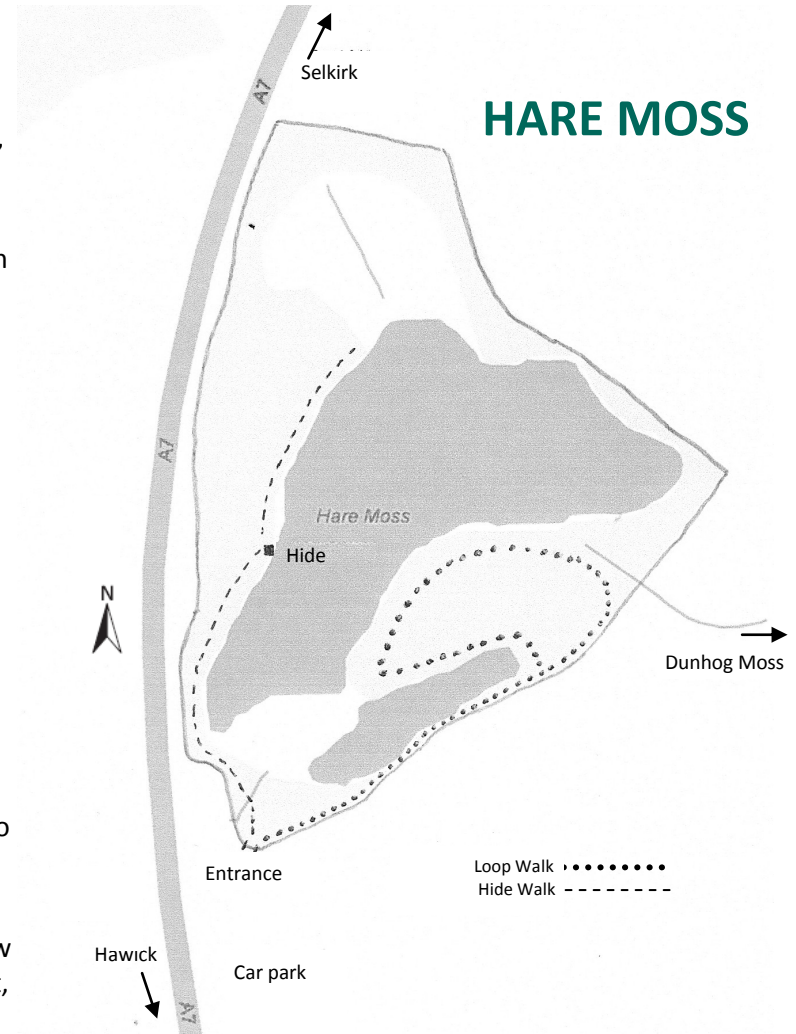
A complete list of all bird species recorded at Hare Moss is on display in the hide.

Other creatures inhabiting the lochan include common frog, smooth newt, damselflies and several species of rare water beetle.

The dry grassland on the south side is a good place to see several species of butterfly during the summer, including ringlet, common blue and meadow brown.

Plants in and around the water include several willow species, yellow flag iris, bogbean, amphibious bistort, greater spearwort and marsh marigold.

In the late summer and autumn the dark areas of pine needles beneath the spruce trees are resplendent with many species of fungi, including the colourful fly agaric with its red cap and white spots.



REMEMBER TO RECORD YOUR VISIT IN THE HIDE DIARY