

County: Cumbria **Site Name:** Knipe Tarn

District: South Lakeland

Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981.

Local Planning Authority: Lake District Special Planning Board

National Grid Reference: SD 426943 **Area:** 5.6 (ha) 13.8 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50 000 97 **1:10 000** SD 49 SW

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1954 **Date of Last Revision:** 1975

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1987 **Date of Last Revision:** 1987

Other Information:

1. The site has been modified by partial deletion at renotification.
2. The site lies within the Lake District National Park.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

Knipe Tarn is situated 3g km to the south-east of Bowness-on-Windermere, in hilly country with an underlying geology of Silurian Bannisdale slates and scattered glacial deposits. Knipe Tarn is an example of a small, moderately nutrient rich (mesotrophic) tarn. It is the most diverse and representative of its type and displays a rich variety of emergent and submerged aquatic plants.

The main water body has a typical association of submerged aquatic plants. Alternate water-milfoil *Myriophyllum alterniflorum* is fairly frequent throughout and is often associated with a variety of pondweeds such as the broad-leaved *Potamogeton natans*, various-leaved *P. gramineus*, blunt-leaved *P. obtusifolius* and small *P. berchtoldii*. Stoneworts *Chara* sp. and *Nitella* sp. are also found on the tarn bed.

The emergent vegetation of the tarn is typified by bottle sedge *Carex rostrata*, common sedge *C. nigra*, marsh cinquefoil *Potentilla palustris*, and bogbean *Menyanthes trifoliata*. The western shore has a bed of water-horsetail *Equisetum fluviatile* and, in places, such as the small bay to the south of this area, a much wider emergent community has developed.

Knipe Tarn (cont...)

Within this community the vegetation falls into zones; a narrow band of bottle sedge, bogbean and broad-leaved pondweed gives way to a larger area of spike-rush *Eleocharis palustris*, bogbean, lesser spearwort *Ranunculus flammula*, creeping bent *Agrostis stolonifera*, and finally soft rush *Juncus effusus* leading to the shore. The tarn edge supports a typical range of submerged and floating species such as lesser bladderwort *Utricularia minor*, lesser marshwort *Apium inundatum*, yellow water-lily *Nuphar lutea*, shoreweed *Littorella uniflora*, water lobelia *Lobelia dortmanna* and the uncommon pillwort *Pilularia globulifera*.