

CUMBRIA COUNTY WILDLIFE SITES

SITE NAME:	Talkin Tarn	SITE REF:	CA-NY55-06
Planning Authority	Carlisle City Council	District	Carlisle
Review Status	Confirmed	Review Date	18/03/1998
Survey Status	Surveyed	Survey Date	Jul 1996
Grid Reference	NY 545 588	Area (ha)	43.62

Site Description

Most of the site area is within Talkin Tarn Country Park and much is covered by open water (26ha), but also includes ancient broadleaf woodland (8ha), scot's pine plantation (0.75ha), marshy grassland (2.25ha) and a small area of wet heath (2.5ha). The wet heath is managed under the Countryside Stewardship Scheme and is enclosed and lightly grazed by sheep to promote heather regeneration. The habitat is good for invertebrates and supports a relatively large population of fox moth.

Approximately one hundred bird species have been recorded in the park including barn owl, great northern diver, crossbill, wood warbler, osprey and hen harrier. In summer the tarn is very heavily used for recreational purposes and highly disturbed. In mid-winter however the tarn is of county importance for goosander, and many years supports enough birds to be of national importance. Large flocks of brambling are regular winter visitors to the large beeches fringing the tarn.

Breeding bird species include tufted duck, canada goose, common sandpiper, grey wagtail, redstart, wood warbler and tree pipit. Passage birds include avocet, green and wood sandpiper, greenshank, black-tailed godwit, dunlin, turnstone, black tern and little gull (Guest & Hutcheson, 1992).

The nationally scarce and declining sword-leaved helleborine (*Cephalanthera longifolia*) is present at this site in good numbers. The tarn also supports the nationally scarce long-stalked pondweed (*Potamogeton praelongus*). The site also supports red squirrel and the notable/Nb beetle species *Oulimnius troglodytes*.

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Owner	County Council Private
Guidelines for Selection	<p>Cumbrian Wildlife Sites Criteria for Selection (Old Guidelines pre 2008)</p> <p>H1.1.1: Site in Ancient Woodland Inventory (semi-natural canopy)</p> <p>H4.1: Bog and mire indicative of listed NVC communities</p> <p>H4.3: Bogs >0.5ha with 3+ listed indicator species</p> <p>H4.4: Bog sites >10ha with dwarf shrubs cover >25%</p>

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