

Local Birdwatching Sites

(extract from book: "[Birdwatching in the Scottish Borders](#)")

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Hule Moss, Greenlaw Moor

(#25 on '[places of interest](#)' map)

General Description: Hule Moss is a medium-sized loch situated on rather boggy heathland. Its remote quietness and extensive views give it a special ambience. The birdwatching can be extremely rewarding and is facilitated by the small bird hide. A second, reedy, pool lies 1 km east. Geese may be on the water or on the adjacent heathland.

Location: NT715490 (Hide). Greenlaw Moor, off the A6105 between Greenlaw and Duns.

Car: Park on rough ground (NT721484) 100 m east of bend in road. **Bike:** Tracks across Greenlaw Moor are suitable for off-road bikes, but none passes close to the loch.

Public Transport: Regular bus service Mon-Sat, infrequent on Sun, between Greenlaw and Duns.

Disabled Access: None.

Habitats: Loch, pond, heather moor, peat bog. pond, heather moor, peat bog

Walking route: Head up past split hawthorn tree until Durrington Hills come into view to NNW. Head slightly left of the western hill. Alternatively, aim about 300m left of the stream which comes from the east end of the loch (and crosses the road near the car park). Possible extended walk: From east pool head north-east to Kyles Hill, then west to isolated woodland at NT708499, then return south-west via Hule Moss

Birds: Autumn visitors include Pinkfooted Geese (thousands), Greylag & Greylag & Barnacle Geese, Whooper and occasional Bewick's Swans, Black-necked Grebe. Wintering ducks include Teal, Mallard, Shoveler, Pochard, Tufted Duck, Goldeneye, Goosander and Ruddy Duck. Passage waders may include Greenshank, Green Sandpiper and Ruff. Common Sandpiper, Redshank, Curlew and Snipe breed in the vicinity. Visiting raptors include Buzzard, Merlin, Peregrine and occasional Marsh & Hen Harriers and Goshawk

Westruther Moor

General description: Low elevation heather moor and unimproved grassland viewable from car with short but steep walk at one point.

Location: NT687517. Westruther Moor, on the B6456 with a walk up Durrington Little Law.

Car: Park considerably at the side of the road if viewing from car. **Bike:** The B6456 is quite quiet but The B6456 is quite quiet but cars do travel at speed.

Public Transport: None.

Disabled Access: None.

Habitats: Heather moor and unimproved grassland.

Walking route: Park at side of road and go over stile next to waymarker on the north side next to waymarker on the north side of the road at NT687517 and head up the hill sticking close to the drystone dyke. You can either keep to the left or cut across the field once you can see the Millennium Cross on the top of Dirrington Little Law. Return to the road by the same route. The walk is about a 2km round trip but the terrain is quite steep.

Birds: Good variety of birds including Stonechat, Pied Wagtail, Skylark, Curlew, Lapwing and Black Grouse have been seen on the heather moor. Raptors include Buzzard and Merlin with Barn Owls seen regularly. Keep an eye out for common lizard and adder if you go up the hill

Duns Castle Estate

General description: Private Estate incorporating Scottish Wildlife Trust Reserve and with excellent accessibility.

Location: NT775545 at NW edge of NT775545 of Duns.

Car: Park at top of Castle Street, just off the A6112. Do not take car beyond archway at lodge. For N end of reserve, take A6112 for 3 km then left on to B6365, then 1 km on at bottom of hill is track on left where cars may be parked.

Public Transport: Regular bus services from Berwick and Galashiels.

Disabled Access: Tared road leading from Castle Street to N end of lake is suitable for wheelchairs.

Habitats: Mixed woodland containing the castle lake (Hen Poo) and the much smaller Mill Dam.

Walking routes: Close to Castle Street car park is steep footpath up to Duns Law, for views of Berwickshire hills. Waymarked walks within estate 3 - 6 km, mainly on level ground.

Birds: Sparrowhawk, Kestrel, Buzzard, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Redstart, Blackcap, Spotted Flycatcher, Nuthatch, Treecreeper, Reed Bunting and Jay. In winter, small numbers of Goldeneye, Tufted Duck, small numbers of Goldeneye, Goosander on lake, feeding flocks of Siskin, Crossbill and Blue, Coal, Great and Long tailed Tits
