



Falstone Moss



What will I see?

Falstone Moss is a **bog** – an area of peatland in Kielder Forest, and one of the famous Border Mires. Thanks to Forest Enterprise you can walk on a boardwalk over it!

How old is it?

The bog started to grow when the climate warmed after the last Ice Age around 11,000 years ago.

Did you know?

Only 3% of the Earth's land is covered in peat bog, but **they are the largest carbon store we have**. They have grown very slowly since the last Ice Age, and only about a millimetre every decade. It's a crucial resource and we don't want to lose it!

Why it is here?

Across northern and western Northumberland the glaciers left a landscape of humps and hollows. In the hollows shallow lakes formed. Gradually vegetation filled those lakes and then spread over the surrounding country. Over thousands of years the vegetation turned to peat.

And wildlife?

Species like red grouse, adder, roe deer, common lizard and hairy eggar moth caterpillars live here. In summer the central pool becomes alive with dragonflies and damselflies. Sphagnum mosses, the main peat-forming plants grow alongside the boardwalk and also bog asphodel, and cranberry.

Where is it?

Close to the Kielder Water Tower Knowe Visitor Centre. A walk of 400/200m along the Lakeside Trail. This is signposted to Falstone Moss. [NY708860]



Want to know more?

- NNP Geodiversity Audit
- Onshore GeoIndex
- iGeology
- Geological history of Northumbria
- Northumberland Wildlife Trust
- Peatland Programme

