

# EC Directive 92/43 on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora

## Citation for Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

**Name:** Borrowdale Woodland Complex  
**Unitary Authority/County:** Cumbria  
**SAC status:** Designated on 1 April 2005  
**Grid reference:** NY235129  
**SAC EU code:** UK0012745  
**Area (ha):** 667.83  
**Component SSSI:** Great Wood SSSI, Johnny Wood SSSI, Lodore-Troutdale Woods SSSI, Scales Wood SSSI, Seatoller Wood, Sourmilk Gill and Seathwaite Graphite Mine SSSI, Stonethwaite Woods SSSI

### Site description:

Borrowdale has the most extensive block of western old sessile oak woods in northern England, and has a diverse range of stand types. Amongst the oak stands there are small patches of bog woodland (birch *Betula* sp. on peat), ash *Fraxinus excelsior* woodland and alder *Alnus glutinosa* stands. The woods are especially rich in bryophytes and lichens.

Diverse moss communities often cover areas of scree as well as occurring on cliffs, rock scars, boulders, fallen wood and tree bark. In addition, there are a number of higher plants of note including alpine enchanter's-nightshade *Circaea alpina*, alpine lady's-mantle *Alchemilla alpina*, viviparous fescue *Festuca vivipara*, mountain melick *Melica nutans*, columbine *Aquilegia vulgaris* and orpine *Sedum telephium*. Yellow *Saxifraga aizoides* and starry saxifrages *S. stellaris* are found locally along the stream courses and the uncommon Wilson's filmy-fern *Hymenophyllum wilsonii* characterises some of the moss communities on damp rock faces.

**Qualifying habitats:** The site is designated under **article 4(4)** of the Directive (92/43/EEC) as it hosts the following habitats listed in Annex I:

- Bog woodland\*
- Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles. (Western acidic oak woodland)
- Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation. (Plants in crevices on acid rocks)

Annex I priority habitats are denoted by an asterisk (\*).

This citation relates to a site entered in the Register of European Sites for Great Britain.  
Register reference number: UK0012745  
Date of registration: 14 June 2005  
Signed: *Trevor Salmon*  
On behalf of the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs