

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

## Citation for Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

**Name:** Manchester Mosses  
**Unitary Authority/County:** Warrington, Wigan  
**SAC status:** Designated on 1 April 2005  
**Grid reference:** SJ691973  
**SAC EU code:** UK0030200  
**Area (ha):** 172.81  
**Component SSSI:** Astley and Bedford Mosses SSSI, Holcroft Moss SSSI, Risley Moss SSSI

### Site description:

Mossland formerly covered a very large part of Greater Manchester, Merseyside, south Lancashire and north Cheshire, and provided a severe obstacle to industrial and agricultural expansion. While most has been converted to agriculture or lost to development, several examples have survived as degraded raised bog, such as Risley Moss, Astley and Bedford Mosses, and Holcroft Moss on the Mersey floodplain. Their surfaces are now elevated above adjacent land due to shrinkage of the surrounding tilled land, and all except Holcroft Moss have been cut for peat at some time in the past. While past drainage has produced dominant purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea*, bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* and birch *Betula* spp. scrub or woodland, wetter pockets have enabled peat-forming species to survive.

**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:

- Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration

This citation relates to a site entered in the Register of European Sites for Great Britain.

Register reference number: UK0030200

Date of registration: 14 June 2005

Signed: *Trevor Salmon*

On behalf of the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs