

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

Citation for Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

Name: Witherslack Mosses
Unitary Authority/County: Cumbria
SAC status: Designated on 1 April 2005
Grid reference: SD457826
SAC EU code: UK0030302
Area (ha): 486.53
Component SSSI: Foulshaw Moss SSSI, Meathop Moss SSSI, Nichols Moss SSSI

Site description:


Witherslack Mosses comprises three individual sites – Meathop Moss, Nichols Moss and Foulshaw Moss – that are remnants of a formerly interconnected peat body on the west side of the Kent estuary, on its coastal plain. All retain some of the original dome structure, though each has been at least in part degraded by peat-cutting around the edges and by commercial forestry on Foulshaw Moss. Although restricted in area on Foulshaw Moss, each site contains good examples of cross-leaved heath *Erica tetralix* – *Sphagnum papillosum* (a bog-moss) raised and blanket mire, of the *Sphagnum magellanicum* – bog-rosemary *Andromeda polifolia* sub-community. Degraded raised bog predominates on Foulshaw Moss and is present around the edges of the other two.

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:

- Active raised bogs*
- Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration

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: UK0030302
Date of registration: 14 June 2005

Signed: 

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