

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

Citation for Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

Name: Tarn Moss
Unitary Authority/County: Cumbria
SAC status: Designated on 1 April 2005
Grid reference: NY400274
SAC EU code: UK0030339
Area (ha): 17.03
Component SSSI: Tarn Moss SSSI


Site description:

Tarn Moss is a valley mire, developed at an altitude of 270 m in a shallow, elongated hollow in acidic glacial drift, fed by ground water that is for the most part nutrient poor. The mire communities are of special interest comprising areas of acid mire within a matrix of nutrient poor fen. Around the periphery of the Moss are areas of rush-dominated communities and marshy grassland. The margins of the outflow stream are bordered by open-water emergent plants such as bur-reeds *Sparganium* sp. The Moss is bounded on one side by a disused railway and on the other by a conifer plantation.

Nutrient-poor fen is the most extensive and best developed community at Tarn Moss. It is characterised by the dominance of bog-mosses *Sphagnum* spp. and sedges, the latter including white sedge *Carex curta*, star sedge *C. echinata*, bottle sedge *C. rostrata* and the very local northern species, tall bog-sedge *C. magellanica*. Other species include marsh pennywort *Hydrocotyle vulgaris*, marsh cinquefoil *Potentilla palustris*, water horsetail *Equisetum fluviatile*, lesser bladderwort *Utricularia minor*, marsh violet *Viola palustris*, common marsh-bedstraw *Galium palustre*, lesser spearwort *Ranunculus flammula*, bog asphodel *Narthecium ossifragum* and abundant cranberry *Vaccinium oxycoccus*.

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:

- Transition mires and quaking bogs. (Very wet mires often identified by an unstable 'quaking' surface)

This citation relates to a site entered in the Register of European Sites for Great Britain.
Register reference number: UK0030339
Date of registration: 14 June 2005
Signed: 
On behalf of the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs