

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

Citation for Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

Name: Fenland
Unitary Authority/County: Cambridgeshire
SAC status: Designated on 1 April 2005
Grid reference: TL554701
SAC EU code: UK0014782
Area (ha): 618.64
Component SSSI: Chippenham Fen and Snailwell Poor's Fen SSSI, Wicken Fen SSSI, Woodwalton Fen SSSI

Site description:

The individual sites within Fenland SAC each hold areas of calcareous fens, with a long and well-documented history of regular management. There is a full range from species-poor great fen-sedge *Cladium mariscus*-dominated fen to species-rich fen with a lower proportion of great fen-sedge and containing such species as black bog-rush *Schoenus nigricans*, tormentil *Potentilla erecta* and meadow thistle *Cirsium dissectum*. There are good transitions to the tall herb-rich East Anglian type of purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea* – meadow thistle fen-meadow and rush pastures, all set within a mosaic of reedbeds and wet pastures.


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:

- Calcareous fens with *Cladium mariscus* and species of the *Caricion davallianae*. (Calcium-rich fen dominated by great fen sedge (saw sedge))*
- *Molinia* meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae*). (Purple moor-grass meadows)

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

- Spined loach *Cobitis taenia*
- Great crested newt *Triturus cristatus*

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: UK0014782
Date of registration: 14 June 2005
Signed: 
On behalf of the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs