

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

Citation for Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

Name: Baston Fen
Unitary Authority/County: Lincolnshire
SAC status: Designated on 1 April 2005
Grid reference: TF136171
SAC EU code: UK0030085
Area (ha): 2.20
Component SSSI: Baston and Thurlby Fens SSSI

Site description:

The Special Area of Conservation comprises the Counter Drain, which is a large, slow-flowing drainage channel, lying adjacent to Baston Fen. The drain forms an important refuge for a diverse community of aquatic and emergent plants including yellow water-lily *Nuphar lutea*, needle spike-rush *Eleocharis acicularis*, arrowhead *Sagittaria sagittaria*, frogbit *Hydrocharis morsus-ranae*, fan-leaved water-crowfoot *Ranunculus circinatus* and spiked watermilfoil *Myriophyllum spicatum*. Of particular note is the unusually rich assemblage of pondweeds which includes perfoliate pondweed *Potamogeton perfoliatus*, flat-stalked pondweed *P. friesii* and the nationally uncommon hairlike pondweed *P. trichoides* and grass-wrack pondweed *P. compressus*.

The site is also rich in freshwater invertebrates, including dragonflies, damselflies, aquatic snails and water beetles. Amongst the variety of fish which have been recorded from the site is the spined loach *Cobitis taenia*, a significant population of which occurs in the Counter Drain.

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*

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

Register reference number: UK0030085

Date of registration: 14 June 2005

Signed: *Trew Salmon*

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