

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

Citation for Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

Name: Fenn's, Whixall, Bettisfield, Wem and Cadney Mosses
Unitary Authority/County: Wrexham, Shropshire
SAC status: English part designated on 1 April 2005
Welsh part designated on 13 December 2004
Grid reference: SJ 486364
SAC EU code: UK0012912
Area (ha): 949.21
Component SSSI: Fenn's, Whixall, Bettisfield, Wem and Cadney Mosses SSSI

Site description:

This is a large lowland raised bog that straddles the English/Welsh border. It is amongst the largest and most southerly raised bogs in the UK. Although much of the site has been subject to peat extraction, areas of partially-cut and uncut mire still remain. In areas formerly subject to commercial peat-cutting, conservation management has led to the regeneration of bog-forming vegetation. Mire vegetation includes the bog-mosses *Sphagnum papillosum*, *Sphagnum magellanicum*, and *Sphagnum pulchrum*, all three British species of sundew *Drosera* spp., cranberry *Vaccinium oxycoccos*, bog asphodel *Narthecium ossifragum*, royal fern *Osmunda regalis*, white beak-sedge *Rhynchospora alba* and bog-rosemary *Andromeda polifolia*, together with the nationally scarce moss *Dicranum affine*. Over 1,700 invertebrate species have been recorded here, including 29 nationally rare species.

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: UK0012912

Date of registration: 14 June 2005

Signed: *Trew Salmon*

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

The site is also entered in the Register of European sites for Wales, maintained by the National Assembly for Wales.