

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

Citation for Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

Name: Portholme
Unitary Authority/County: Cambridgeshire
SAC status: Designated on 1 April 2005
Grid reference: TL237708
SAC EU code: UK0030054
Area (ha): 91.93
Component SSSI: Portholme SSSI

Site description:

This site is the largest surviving traditionally-managed lowland hay meadow in the UK. It holds grassland communities of the alluvial flood meadow type. The meadow is surrounded by channels of the River Ouse.

The grassland communities are characterised by the presence of such grasses as Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus*, yellow oat-grass *Trisetum flavescens*, meadow foxtail *Alopecurus pratensis* and meadow fescue *Festuca pratensis*. The range of herbs present, typical of such meadows, includes lady's bedstraw *Galium verum*, pepper-saxifrage *Silaum silaus* and great burnet *Sanguisorba officinalis*. The site supports a small population of fritillary *Fritillaria meleagris*.

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:

- Lowland hay meadows (*Alopecurus pratensis*, *Sanguisorba officinalis*)

This citation relates to a site entered in the Register of European Sites for Great Britain.
Register reference number: UK0030054
Date of registration: 14 June 2005

Signed: 

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