

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

Citation for Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

Name: Roydon Common and Dersingham Bog
Unitary Authority/County: Norfolk
SAC status: Designated on 1 April 2005
Grid reference: TF686224
SAC EU code: UK0012801
Area (ha): 351.83
Component SSSI: Dersingham Bog SSSI, Roydon Common SSSI

Site description:

Roydon Common and Dersingham Bog represent the largest and best examples of cross-leaved heath – bog-moss (*Erica tetralix* – *Sphagnum compactum*) wet heath in East Anglia. This vegetation community is part of a lowland mixed valley mire, a complex series of plant communities grading from wet acid heath through valley mire to calcareous fen. This gradation is of outstanding interest. The mire is extremely diverse and supports many rare plants, birds and insects, including the black darter dragonfly *Sympetrum scoticum*, a northern species with a very local distribution in south-east England. The site also contains an area of dry heathland, which is dominated by heather *Calluna vulgaris*, gorse *Ulex europaeus* and young silver birch *Betula pendula*, and has areas of bracken around the margins.

There are examples of depressions on peat substrates in natural bog pools of patterned valley mire, in flushes on the margins of valley mire and locally in disturbed areas associated with trackways and paths in mire and wet heath. Mosaics containing this habitat type are important for bog orchid *Hammarbya paludosa*.

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:

- Depressions on peat substrates of the *Rhynchosporion*
- European dry heaths
- Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*. (Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath)

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

Register reference number: UK0012801

Date of registration: 14 June 2005

Signed: 

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