

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

Citation for Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

Name: Oak Mere
Unitary Authority/County: Cheshire
SAC status: Designated on 1 April 2005
Grid reference: SJ573679
SAC EU code: UK0012970
Area (ha): 68.82
Component SSSI: Oak Mere SSSI

Site description:

Oak Mere is a shallow lake formed in glacial drift some 15,000 years ago. It is unique because of its unusual water chemistry which gives rise to an outstanding assemblage of aquatic plants, including shore weed *Littorella uniflora* and narrow small-reed *Calamagrostis stricta*, together with a wide diversity of invertebrate groups. Associated with the main lake are a number of surrounding boggy pools and basin mires. The hydrology of the whole site is complex, resulting in fluctuations in water levels which periodically leave wide draw-down zones.

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:

- Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains: *Littorelletalia uniflorae*. (Nutrient-poor shallow waters with aquatic vegetation on sandy plains)
- Transition mires and quaking bogs. (Very wet mires often identified by an unstable 'quaking' surface)

This citation relates to a site entered in the Register of European Sites for Great Britain.
Register reference number: UK0012970
Date of registration: 14 June 2005
Signed: *Trew Salmon*
On behalf of the Secretary of State for Environment,
Food and Rural Affairs