

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

## Citation for Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

**Name:** Waveney and Little Ouse Valley Fens  
**Unitary Authority/County:** Norfolk, Suffolk  
**SAC status:** Designated on 1 April 2005  
**Grid reference:** TM054799  
**SAC EU code:** UK0012882  
**Area (ha):** 193.18  
**Component SSSI:** Blo' Norton and Thelnetham Fen SSSI, Redgrave and Lopham Fens SSSI, Weston Fen SSSI

### Site description:

This site occurs in the East Anglian centre of distribution of calcareous fens and contains very extensive great fen-sedge *Cladium mariscus* beds, including managed examples, as well as stands in contact zones between small sedge mire and species-poor *Cladium* beds. The habitat type here occurs in a spring-fed valley fen.

Purple moor-grass – meadow thistle (*Molinia caerulea* – *Cirsium dissectum*) fen-meadows are associated with the spring-fed valley fen systems. The *Molinia* meadows occur in conjunction with black bog-rush – blunt-flowered rush (*Schoenus nigricans* – *Juncus subnodulosus*) mire and calcareous fens with great fen-sedge. Where the fen-meadow is grazed it is more species-rich, with frequent southern marsh-orchid *Dactylorhiza praetermissa*.

A population of Desmoulin's whorl snail *Vertigo moulinsiana* occurs in a valley fen at Weston Fen.

**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:

- Calcareous fens with *Cladium mariscus* and species of the *Caricion davallianae*. (Calcium-rich fen dominated by great fen sedge (saw sedge))\*
- *Molinia* meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae*). (Purple moor-grass meadows)

**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:

- Desmoulin's whorl snail *Vertigo moulinsiana*

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: UK0012882

Date of registration: 14 June 2005

Signed: *Trevor Salmon*

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