

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

Citation for Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

Name: Breney Common and Goss and Tregoss Moors
Unitary Authority/County: Cornwall
SAC status: Designated on 1 April 2005
Grid reference: SW951598
SAC EU code: UK0030098
Area (ha): 816.01
Component SSSI: Breney Common SSSI, Goss and Tregoss Moors SSSI

Site description:

The two discrete parts of this lowland site are located in mid Cornwall to the north and east of the St. Austell china clay district. The site exhibits mosaics of various habitats, including dry and wet heaths, acid grassland, bog, swamp, fen and open water communities. The soil-structure reflects past mining operations, which caused poor drainage. The site supports rich assemblages of butterflies (including a cluster of marsh fritillary *Euphydryas aurinia* sub-populations), moths, dragonflies and damselflies.

The dry heathland community of heather *Calluna vulgaris*, bell heather *Erica cinerea* and bristle bent *Agrostis curtisii* with scattered western gorse *Ulex gallii*, forms a mosaic with acid grassland dominated by purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea*, with wavy hair-grass *Deschampsia flexuosa* and heath spotted orchid *Dactylorhiza maculata*. Wet hollows, and areas with impeded drainage, support wet heath vegetation with purple moor-grass, cross-leaved heath *Erica tetralix*, early marsh orchid *Dactylorhiza incarnate*, and lesser butterfly orchid *Platanthera bifolia*. Wet heath merges into bog-moss *Sphagnum*-dominated bog vegetation with common cottongrass *Eriophorum angustifolium*, round-leaved sundew *Drosera rotundifolia*, bog myrtle *Myrica gale*, bog asphodel *Narthecium ossifragum*, black bog-rush *Schoenus nigricans* and bog pimpernel *Anagallis tenella*.

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:

- European dry heaths
- Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*. (Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath)
- Transition mires and quaking bogs. (Very wet mires often identified by an unstable 'quaking' surface)

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:

- Marsh fritillary butterfly *Euphydryas* (*Eurodryas*, *Hypodryas*) *aurinia*

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

Register reference number: UK0030098

Date of registration: 14 June 2005

Signed: *Trevor Salmon*

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