

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

Citation for Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

Name: Ouse Washes
Unitary Authority/County: Cambridgeshire, Norfolk
SAC status: Designated on 1 April 2005
Grid reference: TL498895
SAC EU code: UK0013011
Area (ha): 311.35
Component SSSI: Ouse Washes SSSI

Site description:

The Ouse Washes is one of the country's few remaining areas of extensive washland habitat. The associated dykes and rivers hold a great variety of aquatic plants; the pondweeds *Potamogeton* spp. are particularly well represented. The associated aquatic fauna is similarly diverse and includes spined loach *Cobitis taenia*. The Counter Drain, with its clear water and abundant aquatic plants, is particularly important, and a healthy population of spined loach is known to occur.

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:

- Spined loach *Cobitis taenia*

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

Register reference number: UK0013011

Date of registration: 14 June 2005

Signed: *Trevor Salmon*

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