

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

Citation for Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

Name: Ullswater Oakwoods
Unitary Authority/County: Cumbria
SAC status: Designated on 1 April 2005
Grid reference: NY399128
SAC EU code: UK0030295
Area (ha): 122.31
Component SSSI: Glencoyne Wood SSSI, Hallinhag Wood SSSI, Low Wood SSSI

Site description:

Around Ullswater there is a cluster of old sessile oak woods, sometimes in association with other woodland types of ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and alder *Alnus glutinosa*. The woods show outstanding bryophyte assemblages (including northern species such as *Ptilium crista-castrensis*) and also include areas rich in saproxylic (dead wood) invertebrates. The site lies within the Lake District National Park and comprises three separate woodland blocks. On the most acid soils of the upper slopes sessile oak *Quercus petraea* forms almost pure stands with sparse hazel *Corylus avellana*, downy birch *Betula pubescens* and holly *Ilex aquifolium*. Locally on these upper slopes the canopy is more mixed: sessile oak occurs with downy birch or hazel plus standard and coppiced ash. On the more nutrient-rich (basic) soils of the lower slopes sessile oak is largely replaced in the canopy by ash with hazel, as a dense shrub layer, a feature particularly well developed at Low Wood.


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:

- Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles. (Western acidic oak woodland)

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

Register reference number: UK0030295

Date of registration: 14 June 2005

Signed: 

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