

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

Citation for Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

Name: Brown Moss
Unitary Authority/County: Shropshire
SAC status: Designated on 1 April 2005
Grid reference: SJ561394
SAC EU code: UK0030100
Area (ha): 32.03
Component SSSI: Brown Moss SSSI

Site description:

Brown Moss is an area of former heathland, now largely colonised by woodland, with a series of shallow pools. The site holds marsh, swamp and fen communities associated with the pools which occupy hollows in the sand and gravel substrate. The pools fluctuate considerably and apparently independently, in level and also vary in their water chemistry. Marginal vegetation includes tall communities dominated by great reedmace *Typha latifolia*, soft rush *Juncus effusus*, bur-reed *Sparganium erectum*, bottle sedge *Carex rostrata* and bladder sedge *C. vesicaria*. There are also extensive areas of shorter grassland and marsh at the margins of some of the pools, with common spike-rush *Eleocharis palustris* and creeping bent *Agrostis stolonifera* among the dominant species.

Floating water-plantain *Luronium natans* has been known to occur at Brown Moss for several years, and this site possibly represents a relict natural lowland population of the species. The population of floating water-plantain at Brown Moss is relatively small, and appears to behave as a metapopulation, colonising the various pools according to their suitability.

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:

- Floating water-plantain *Luronium natans*

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

Register reference number: UK0030100

Date of registration: 14 June 2005

Signed: *Trevor Salmon*

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