

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

Citation for Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

Name: Wast Water
Unitary Authority/County: Cumbria
SAC status: Designated on 1 April 2005
Grid reference: UK0030063
SAC EU code: NY164062
Area (ha): 286.21
Component SSSI: Wast Water SSSI

Site description:

Wast Water is a relatively large and deep oligotrophic (nutrient-poor) waterbody in the Lake District. Except for a small portion on Eskdale granite, Wast Water lies entirely on Borrowdale Volcanics rocks, and rocky substrates predominate along its shoreline. The aquatic plant communities are typical of oligotrophic lakes. Species such as bulbous rush *Juncus bulbosus*, quillwort *Isoetes lacustris*, shoreweed *Littorella uniflora*, awlwort *Subularia aquatica* and stoneworts *Nitella* spp. are known to occur. Least bur-reed *Sparganium natans* and floating bur-reed *Sparganium angustifolium* occur in more sheltered bays and are more typical of mesotrophic (moderate nutrient status) situations. Blunt-leaved pondweed *Potamogeton obtusifolius* has been recorded and bog pondweed *P. polygonifolius* occurs in the stream outlets. Typical invertebrates are present, including gastropod species (wandering snail *Lymnaea peregra* and river limpet *Ancylus fluviatilis*), the leech *Erpobdella octoculata* and the triclad *Polycelis nigra*. Arctic charr *Salvelinus alpinus* occur in the lake.

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:

- Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the *Littorelletea uniflorae* and/or of the *Isoeto-Nanojuncetea*. (Clear-water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation and poor to moderate nutrient levels)

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

Register reference number: UK0030063

Date of registration: 14 June 2005

Signed: *Trevor Salmon*

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