

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

Citation for Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

Name: Roudsea Wood and Mosses
Unitary Authority/County: Cumbria
SAC status: Designated on 1 April 2005
Grid reference: SD347807
SAC EU code: UK0019834
Area (ha): 470.45
Component SSSI: Roudsea Wood and Mosses SSSI

Site description:

Roudsea consists of a complex of raised bogs on the northern shore of Morecambe Bay containing areas of both active and degraded raised bog. Although the majority of the complex has undergone extensive drainage in the past, with domestic peat-cutting around the margins, drainage was abandoned many years ago and much of the area has recovered to a considerable degree. Within the site there are transitions between acid bog and limestone woodland, with a number of scarce plant species including the rare large yellow-sedge *Carex flava*.


Woodland at Roudsea is represented by *Tilio-Acerion* forests on Carboniferous limestone. Although close to the northern limit of lime distribution, the ash *Fraxinus excelsior*-dominated woodland around Morecambe Bay contains many patches of small-leaved lime *Tilia cordata*, which survive sometimes with elm *Ulmus* spp., often along outcrop edges.

The yew *Taxus baccata* woods at Roudsea have strong similarities with the yew stands at the nearby Morecambe Bay Pavements. They are both on northern Carboniferous Limestone, and, as in the Wye Valley, occur both as dense groves and as scattered trees in the understorey of ash or ash-elm *Fraxinus-Ulmus* woodland.

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:

- Active raised bogs*
- Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration
- *Tilio-Acerion* forests of slopes, screes and ravines. (Mixed woodland on base-rich soils associated with rocky slopes)*
- *Taxus baccata* woods of the British Isles. (Yew-dominated woodland)*

Annex I priority habitats are denoted by an asterisk (*).

This citation relates to a site entered in the Register of European Sites for Great Britain.
Register reference number: UK0019834
Date of registration: 14 June 2005
Signed: 
On behalf of the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs