

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

Citation for Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

Name: Strensall Common
Unitary Authority/County: York
SAC status: Designated on 1 April 2005
Grid reference: SE651598
SAC EU code: UK0030284
Area (ha): 569.63
Component SSSI: Strensall Common SSSI

Site description:

Strensall Common is an example of acidic lowland heath represented predominantly by *Erica tetralix* – *Sphagnum compactum* wet heath, although its extent has been reduced by drainage. It is a noted locality for marsh gentian *Gentiana pneumonanthe*, narrow buckler-fern *Dryopteris carthusiana* and the dark-bordered beauty moth *Epione vespertaria* as it is associated with creeping willow *Salix repens* on the wet heath.

There is also a complex mosaic of wet heaths with *Erica tetralix* and dry heath elements. The *Calluna vulgaris* – *Deschampsia flexuosa* dry heath is noted for petty whin *Genista anglica* and bird's-foot *Ornithopus perpusillus*.

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:

- European dry heaths.
- Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix* (wet heathland with cross-leaved heath).

This citation relates to a site entered in the Register of European Sites for Great Britain.
Register reference number: UK0030284
Date of registration: 14 June 2005

Signed: *Trevor Salmon*

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