

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

## Citation for Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

**Name:** Walton Moss  
**Unitary Authority/County:** Cumbria  
**SAC status:** Designated on 1 April 2005  
**Grid reference:** NY504665  
**SAC EU code:** UK0030093  
**Area (ha):** 285.89  
**Component SSSI:** Walton Moss SSSI

### Site description:

Walton Moss is a raised mire system, which includes areas of Broomhill, Glebe and Breaks Mosses as well as Walton Moss itself. Most of the site is a typical raised mire dominated by bog-mosses *Sphagnum* species, but there are also areas of modified mire with purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea*, hare's-tail cottongrass *Eriophorum vaginatum* and rush species *Juncus effusus* and *J. acutiflorus* predominating.

Bog-moss cover ranges between 70% and 100%, over most of Walton Moss. The main species are *Sphagnum recurvum* and *S. cuspidatum* in 'lawns' and hollows, with *S. papillosum*, *S. magellanicum* and *S. capillifolium* forming hummocks. Leafy liverwort species are notably abundant amongst the bog-mosses and include at least two rare species, *Cephaloziella subdentata* and *C. elachista*. The higher plant species growing through the bog-moss carpet are characteristic of good, well developed raised mire and include bog-rosemary *Andromeda polifolia*, cranberry *Vaccinium oxycoccos*, round-leaved sundew *Drosera rotundifolia*, white beak-sedge *Rhynchospora alba* – locally in great abundance, heather *Calluna vulgaris*, hare's-tail cotton-grass and cross-leaved heath *Erica tetralix*.

Small areas of birch dominated woodland or scrub occur around the periphery of the Moss and these, together with extensive rush pasture, form a natural margin to the raised mire.

**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

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: UK0030093

Date of registration: 14 June 2005

Signed: *Trew Salmon*

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