

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

Citation for Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

Name: Shortheath Common
Unitary Authority/County: Hampshire
SAC status: Designated on 1 April 2005
Grid reference: SU774367
SAC EU code: UK0030275
Area (ha): 58.94
Component SSSI: Shortheath Common SSSI


Site description:

A valley mire forms the focal point of this site in the western Weald which also embraces a wide range of woodland and heathland habitats including bog-woodland. The northern strip of the mire is the most mesotrophic (moderate nutrient status) and has much grey willow *Salix cinerea* but also a rich ground-flora with abundant sedges *Carex curta* and *C. rostrata*, soft rush *Juncus effusus*, marsh cinquefoil *Potentilla palustris* and the bog-moss *Sphagnum recurvum*. An oligotrophic (nutrient-poor) area to the south is dominated by *S. recurvum* with cross-leaved heath *Erica tetralix*, common cottongrass *Eriophorum angustifolium*, purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea* and round-leaved sundew *Drosera rotundifolia*. It is notable for its high cover of cranberry *Vaccinium oxycoccos*. Other bog-mosses such as *Sphagnum capillifolium* and *S. papillosum* are also present, and the whole forms a floating raft over much of the 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:

- Bog woodland*
- European dry heaths
- Transition mires and quaking bogs. (Very wet mires often identified by an unstable 'quaking' surface)

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: UK0030275
Date of registration: 14 June 2005
Signed: 
On behalf of the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs