

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

Citation for Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

Name: North York Moors
Unitary Authority/County: North Yorkshire, Redcar and Cleveland
SAC status: Designated on 1 April 2005
Grid reference: NZ711021
SAC EU code: UK0030228
Area (ha): 44082.25
Component SSSI: North York Moors SSSI

Site description:

This site in north-east Yorkshire within the North York Moors National Park contains the largest continuous tract of upland heather moorland in England. Dry heath covers over half the site and forms the main vegetation type on the western, southern and central moors where the soil is free-draining and has only a thin peat layer. The principal type present is heather – wavy hair-grass (*Calluna vulgaris* – *Deschampsia flexuosa*) heath, with some heather – bell heather *Erica cinerea* heath on well-drained areas throughout the site, and large areas of heather – bilberry *Vaccinium myrtillus* heath on steeper slopes.

Cross-leaved heath – bog-moss (*Erica tetralix* – *Sphagnum compactum*) wet heath is the second most extensive vegetation type on the site and is predominantly found on the eastern and northern moors where the soil is less free-draining. Purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea* and heath rush *Juncus squarrosus* are also common within this community. In the wettest stands bog-mosses, including *Sphagnum tenellum*, occur, and the nationally scarce creeping forget-me-not *Myosotis stolonifera* can be found in acid moorland streams and shallow pools.

Blanket mire occurs in small amounts along the main watershed of the high moors where deep peat has accumulated. These areas are dominated by heather and cross-leaved heath with frequent hare's-tail cottongrass *Eriophorum vaginatum* and common cottongrass *E. angustifolium*.

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:

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

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: UK0030228

Date of registration: 14 June 2005

Signed: *Trew Salmon*

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