

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

Citation for Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

Name: Cothill Fen
Unitary Authority/County: Oxfordshire
SAC status: Designated on 1 April 2005
Grid reference: SU463999
SAC EU code: UK0012889
Area (ha): 43.55
Component SSSI: Cothill Fen SSSI

Site description:

This lowland valley mire contains one of the largest surviving examples of alkaline fen vegetation in central England, a region where fen vegetation is rare. The black bog-rush – blunt-flowered rush (*Schoenus nigricans* – *Juncus subnodulosus*) mire vegetation found here occurs under a wide range of hydrological conditions, with frequent bottle sedge *Carex rostrata*, grass-of-Parnassus *Parnassia palustris*, common butterwort *Pinguicula vulgaris* and marsh helleborine *Epipactis palustris*. The alkaline fen vegetation forms transitions to other vegetation types that are similar to purple moor-grass – meadow thistle (*Molinia caerulea* – *Cirsium dissectum*) fen-meadow and common reed – hemp-agrimony (*Phragmites australis* – *Eupatorium cannabinum*) tall-herb fen, as well as wet alder *Alnus glutinosa* 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:

- Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (*Alno-Padion*, *Alnion incanae*, *Salicion albae*). (Alder woodland on floodplains)*
- Alkaline fens. (Calcium-rich springwater-fed fens)

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: UK0012889
Date of registration: 14 June 2005

Signed: 

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