
Register of European sites

Register entry UK0030362 under Regulation 13 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010

This is the register entry for the European site known as **Bolton Fell Moss** in the Region of **Cumbria**. This area has been designated by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to Article 4.4 of the "Habitats Directive" (Council Directive 92/43/EEC) as a Special Area of Conservation. The register reference number for this European site is UK0030362 and a folder, kept under this reference as part of this register, contains a map, of the European site and a citation, both signed by me, giving the reasons for designation of the site as a Special Area of Conservation.

Other details of the European site are as follows:

Date designated as a Special Area of Conservation: 25 February 2016

Site centre location¹

Longitude: 55° 0' 41" N

Latitude: -2° 47' 49"W

Area (ha): 374.74

Priority status²: No

Date of registration: 25 February 2016

Signed: 

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

¹ This indicates the approximate centre of the site. Where the European site consists of several distinct areas, the co-ordinates of the most important sub-area are entered.

² Indicates whether the site has been identified under Article 4.2 of the Habitats Directive (Council directive 92/43/EEC) as hosting one or more priority natural habitat types or priority species

**Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural
Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora**
Citation for Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

Name:	Bolton Fell Moss
Unitary Authority/County:	Cumbria
SAC status:	designated as a SAC on 25 February 2016
Grid reference:	NY490688
SAC EU code:	UK0030362
Area (ha):	374.74
Component SSSI:	Bolton Fell and Walton Mosses SSSI

Site description:

Bolton Fell Moss is situated on a relatively flat area between tributaries of the River Irthing and the River Lyne, 8 km west of Brampton at 110 metres above sea level. The peat deposits across the site range up to approximately 11 metres in depth, overlying Devensian glacial deposits. The actively growing nature of parts of the bog, restoration potential of degraded areas, and overall extent of the lowland raised bog at Bolton Moss make it particularly important, nationally and internationally.

Peat has been commercially extracted from Bolton Fell Moss since 1959 and although now ceased, these peat workings had extended over much of the area. Significant areas of raised bog habitat remain where peat has not been extracted. The bare intervening peat within the site forms part of the original raised bog peat mass and is critical to the long-term sustainability and resilience of the remaining areas of active bog. It is also critical to the restoration of active raised bog across the site. Re-wetting and restoration of active peat-forming vegetation in these areas will address peat oxidation and loss. The other areas of the site comprise degraded bog, areas of vegetation typical of active bog communities, wet heath and also peripheral vegetation analogous to lagg communities (where waters from surrounding mineral ground mix with rain-derived run-off from the bog).

The north-west part of Bolton Fell Moss supports active raised bog comprising a rich carpet of bog-mosses, cross-leaved heath *Erica tetralix* and hare's-tail cotton-grass, with heather *Calluna vulgaris* and an unusual abundance of crowberry *Empetrum nigrum*. Other typical species include round-leaved sundew *Drosera rotundifolia*, common cotton-grass *Eriophorum angustifolium* and cranberry *Vaccinium oxycoccos* occurring amongst the 'lawns' of the bog mosses papillose bog-moss *Sphagnum papillosum*, blunt-leaved bog-moss *S. palustre*, magellanic bog-moss *S. magellanicum*, soft bog-moss *S. tenellum*, lustrous bog-moss *S. subnitens*, red bog-moss *S. capillifolium*, *S. recurvum* and feathery bog-moss *S. cuspidatum*. More rarely, white beak-sedge *Rhynchospora alba*, bog-rosemary *Andromeda polifolia* and oblong-leaved sundew *Drosera intermedia* also occur.

Peripheral drainage has affected some of the communities and has increased fluctuation of the water table, demonstrating the hydrological interdependence on the larger peat body. This has allowed mosses such as bog groove-moss *Aulacomnium palustre*, common haircap *Polytrichum commune* and red-stemmed feather-moss *Pleurozium schreberi* to replace some of the bog mosses, and led to an increase in heather and purple moor-grass and permitted the spread of downy birch *Betula pubescens* and Scots pine *Pinus sylvestris* in some areas.

The majority of Bolton Fell Moss has been commercially milled for peat. This process does not allow vegetation to re-establish itself between cuts. Nonetheless, now that all milling has ceased, the affected areas are showing signs of recovery, supporting peatland vegetation such as cotton-grasses.

On the periphery of the moss piecemeal peat-cutting by hand has led to a mosaic of boggy hollows, some of which resemble the vegetation on the intact part of the moss, whilst others comprise vegetation dominated by purple moor-grass or soft-rush. There are a few areas of wet woodland with either downy birch and purple moor-grass or willow *Salix* species. These types of grassland and woodland are representative of the edge or lagg community which, under more natural conditions, would be expected to occupy the boundary between raised bog and the wet flushed mineral ground. In some areas, due to agricultural activities, these vegetation types have now regressed more towards the bog centre than would have been the case under natural conditions.

Qualifying habitat: The site is designated under **article 4(4)** of the Directive (92/43/EEC) as it hosts the following habitat listed in Annex I:

- **Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration**

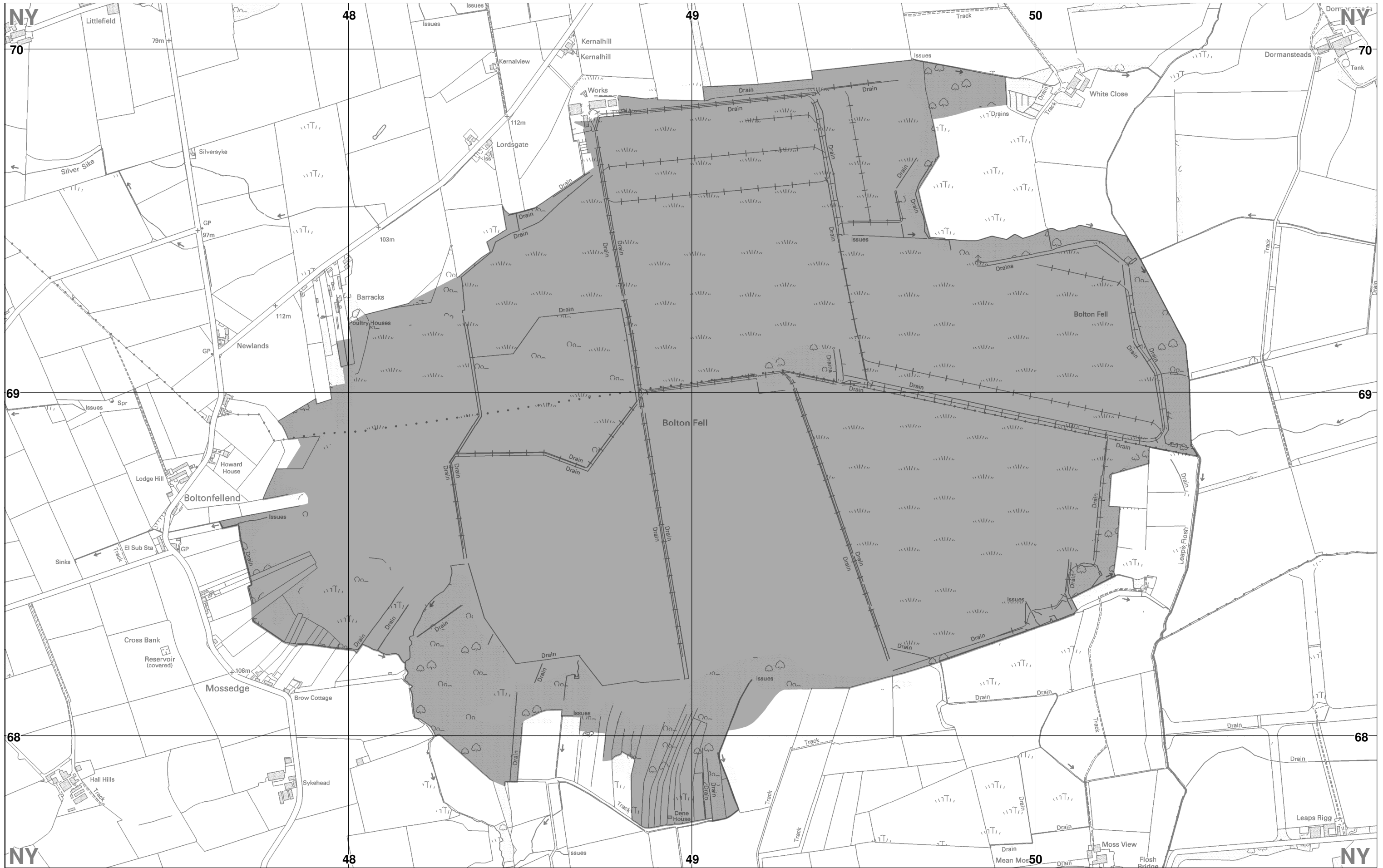
Annex I priority habitats are denoted by an asterisk (*).

This citation relates to a site entered in the Register of European Sites for Great Britain.
Register reference number: UK0030362
Date of registration: **25 February 2016**


Signed :




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



Special Area of Conservation
Bolton Fell Moss
 Cumbria County

 Special Area of Conservation
 374.74 Hectares

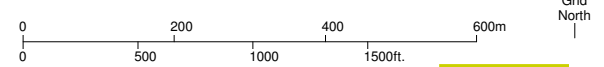
This map relates to a site entered in the Register of European Sites for Great Britain.
 Register reference number: UK0030362
 Date of registration: 25 February 2016
 Signed: 

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

EU Site Code: UK0030362
 Version Number: 2
 Longitude: 55 07 41'N
 Latitude: -2 47 49'W
 Projection: British National Grid
 Area of SAC: 374.74 Hectares

Theme ID: 1007550
 Grid Ref: NY490688
 Version: 20080430
 Plotted: 29/07/2008
 PlotID: 1311

Scale 1:10000 at A3



Map 1 of 1

Special Area of Conservation Directive 92/43/EEC Submitted to the EC by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. Date: 25 February 2016
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