

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

Citation for Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

Name: Queendown Warren
Unitary Authority/County: Kent
SAC status: Designated on 1 April 2005
Grid reference: TQ827629
SAC EU code: UK0012833
Area (ha): 14.28
Component SSSI: Queendown Warren SSSI


Site description:

The grassland of this site is on the south-facing slope of a dry chalk valley. It is largely dominated by upright brome *Bromopsis erecta* and sheep's-fescue *Festuca ovina* with numerous plants characteristic of grazed but otherwise undisturbed chalk grassland. Among the more interesting species are chalk milkwort *Polygala calcarea*, squinancywort *Asperula cynanchica*, horseshoe vetch *Hippocrepis comosa* and the nationally rare meadow clary *Salvia pratensis*. The site contains an important assemblage of rare and scarce orchids, including early spider-orchid *Ophrys sphegodes*, burnt orchid *Orchis ustulata* and man orchid *Aceras anthropophorum*. It is rich entomologically and two characteristic species, the adonis blue butterfly *Lysandra bellargus* and the rufous grasshopper *Gomphocerippus rufus* occur here.

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:

- Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (*Festuco-Brometalia*) (important orchid sites). (Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone, including important orchid sites)*

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: UK0012833
Date of registration: 14 June 2005
Signed: 
On behalf of the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs