

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

Citation for Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

Name: Dixton Wood
Unitary Authority/County: Gloucestershire
SAC status: Designated on 1 April 2005
Grid reference: SO979313
SAC EU code: UK0030135
Area (ha): 13.14
Component SSSI: Dixton Wood SSSI

Site description:

Dixton Wood is a steep east facing woodland surrounded by permanent grassland, situated in the foothills of the Cotswold Scarp. The wood represents an atypical ash *Fraxinus excelsior*-field maple *Acer campestre*-dog's mercury *Mercurialis perennis* community, with a lush but impoverished ground flora and unusual structure derived from wood pasture management. The historic management of the site has resulted in a number of very large, low ash pollards with a range of deadwood types, from split ash boles, shattered tree limbs, old and active pollards and cut stumps. The moist clay soils, the aspect and ground and scrub cover sustain a humid microclimate which probably enhances the decay process. The deadwood beetle fauna of Dixton Wood is very rich and includes the violet click beetle *Limoniscus violaceus*. Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* hedges and flowering bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg. provide important nectar sources for the deadwood fauna.

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

- Violet click beetle *Limoniscus violaceus*

This citation relates to a site entered in the Register of European Sites for Great Britain.

Register reference number: UK0030135

Date of registration: 14 June 2005

Signed: *Trevor Salmon*

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