

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

Citation for Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

Name: Lower Derwent Valley
Unitary Authority/County: East Riding of Yorkshire, North Yorkshire, York
SAC status: Designated on 1 April 2005
Grid reference: SE703441
SAC EU code: UK0012844
Area (ha): 915.91
Component SSSI: Brighton Meadows SSSI, Derwent Ings SSSI, Melbourne Ings and Thornton Ings SSSI, Newton Mask SSSI

Site description:

The Lower Derwent Valley contains a greater area of high-quality examples of lowland hay meadows than any other UK site and encompasses the majority of this habitat type occurring in the Vale of York. The abundance of the rare narrow-leaved water-dropwort *Oenanthe silaifolia* is a notable feature. Traditional management has ensured that ecological variation is well-developed, particularly in the transitions between this grassland type and other types of wet and dry grassland, swamp and fen vegetation. Additionally there is an area of damp alder woodland at Thornton Ellers adjoining marsh and tall fen communities.

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)*
- Lowland hay meadows (*Alopecurus pratensis*, *Sanguisorba officinalis*).

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:

- Otter *Lutra lutra*

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: UK0012844

Date of registration: 14 June 2005

Signed: *Trevor Salmon*

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