

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

Citation for Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

Name: Wye and Crundale Downs
Unitary Authority/County: Kent
SAC status: Designated on 1 April 2005
Grid reference: TR084444
SAC EU code: UK0012831
Area (ha): 112.24
Component SSSI: Wye and Crundale Downs SSSI


Site description:

This site contains species-rich chalk grassland in which tor-grass *Brachypodium pinnatum*, sheep's-fescue *Festuca ovina* and upright brome *Bromopsis erecta* are the most abundant species but the turf is rich in other typical downland plants. These include horseshoe vetch *Hippocrepis comosa*, autumn gentian *Gentianella amarella*, cowslip *Primula veris*, squinancywort *Asperula cynanchica* and common milkwort *Polygala vulgaris*. It has an important assemblage of rare, scarce and uncommon orchids, including early spider-orchid *Ophrys sphegodes*, late spider-orchid *O. fuciflora*, burnt orchid *Orchis ustulata* and lady orchid *Orchis purpurea*.

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: UK0012831
Date of registration: 14 June 2005
Signed: 
On behalf of the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs