

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

Citation for Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

Name: Rixton Clay Pits
Unitary Authority/County: Warrington
SAC status: Designated on 1 April 2005
Grid reference: SJ684901
SAC EU code: UK0030265
Area (ha): 13.99
Component SSSI: Rixton Clay Pits SSSI

Site description:

Situated east of Warrington, this site comprises parts of an extensive disused brickworks quarry excavated in glacial boulder clay. The excavation has left a mosaic of water-filled hollows and clay banks. Long-abandoned areas have undergone natural succession to scrub and woodland while more recently worked areas support calcareous grassland. The site is important for great crested newt *Triturus cristatus* and holds the county's largest known breeding population.

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:

- Great crested newt *Triturus cristatus*

This citation relates to a site entered in the Register of European Sites for Great Britain.
Register reference number: UK0030265
Date of registration: 14 June 2005

Signed: *Trevor Salmon*

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