

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

## Citation for Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

**Name:** Tregonning Hill  
**Unitary Authority/County:** Cornwall  
**SAC status:** Designated on 1 April 2005  
**Grid reference:** SW600300  
**SAC EU code:** UK0012604  
**Area (ha):** 5.21  
**Component SSSI:** Tregonning Hill SSSI

### Site description:

Tregonning Hill, approximately 6km west of Helston, is underlain by the Tregonning Granite, a detached outcrop of the Cornubian batholith. Zones within the granite were altered by kaolinization (a process of decomposition) and have since been worked for china clay. Evidence of this previous mining activity is shown by the profusion of disused pits, gullies, spoil tips and granite debris that now litter the hillside. Much of the site supports western lowland heath dominated by heather *Calluna vulgaris*, bell heather *Erica cinerea* and western gorse *Ulex gallii*, with bilberry *Vaccinium myrtillus* and tormentil *Potentilla erecta*.

The major importance of the site is the occurrence of an extremely rare liverwort, western rustwort *Marsupella profunda*. This species is found growing on bare outcrops of weathered granite within and around the old china clay workings. This vulnerable and rare species requires the retention of bare stones and rocky outcrops for its continued survival. In addition, the site supports the nationally scarce moss, *Brachydontium trichodes*.

**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:

- Western rustwort *Marsupella profunda*\*

Annex II priority species are denoted by an asterisk (\*).

This citation relates to a site entered in the Register of European Sites for Great Britain.  
Register reference number: UK0012604  
Date of registration: 14 June 2005

Signed: *Trew Salmon*

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