

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

Citation for Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

Name: The Mens
Unitary Authority/County: West Sussex
SAC status: Designated on 1 April 2005
Grid reference: TQ023234
SAC EU code: UK0012716
Area (ha): 203.28
Component SSSI: The Mens SSSI

Site description:

The Mens is an extensive area of mature beech *Fagus sylvatica* woodland rich in lichens, bryophytes, fungi and saproxylic (dead wood) invertebrates. It is developing a near-natural high forest structure, in response to only limited silvicultural intervention over the 20th century, combined with the effects of natural events such as the 1987 great storm. The site also supports an important population of barbastelle bat *Barbastella barbastellus*.

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:

- Atlantic acidophilous beech forests with *Ilex* and sometimes also *Taxus* in the shrublayer (*Quercion robori-petraeae* or *Ilici-Fagenion*). (Beech forests on acid soils)

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:

- Barbastelle bat *Barbastella barbastellus*

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

Register reference number: UK0012716

Date of registration: 14 June 2005

Signed: *Trew Salmon*

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