

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

Citation for Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

Name: Crookhill Brick Pit
Unitary Authority/County: Dorset
SAC status: Designated on 1 April 2005
Grid reference: SY643797
SAC EU code: UK0030349
Area (ha): 4.71
Component SSSI: Crookhill Brick Pit SSSI

Site description:

The particular combination and juxtaposition of aquatic and terrestrial habitats at this site provides ideal breeding, foraging and hibernation conditions for great crested newt *Triturus cristatus*. The newts depend on water for breeding and particularly favour moderately deep, well-vegetated ponds without fish. The variety of water bodies on the site, which are largely rain-fed and of high water quality, provides extremely good conditions for newts. Reeds *Phragmites australis* dominate the aquatic vegetation of the pond margins and floating vegetation is mainly broad-leaved pondweed *Potamogeton natans*.

During the first two or three years of life before breeding starts, and then outside the spring breeding season, great crested newts are dependent on terrestrial habitats to provide foraging areas and places to hibernate. The terrestrial habitat consists of rough grassland, scrub and the remains of the former brickworks that provide valuable refuge for amphibians. The habitats that occur around the ponds on this site are as important as the presence of suitable ponds.

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: UK0030349

Date of registration: 14 June 2005

Signed: *Trevor Salmon*

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