

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

## Citation for Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

**Name:** Tyne and Nent  
**Unitary Authority/County:** Cumbria  
**SAC status:** Designated on 1 April 2005  
**Grid reference:** NY715448  
**SAC EU code:** UK0030293  
**Area (ha):** 36.84  
**Component SSSI:** Alston Shingle Banks SSSI, Haggs Bank SSSI, River Nent at Blagill SSSI, Whitesike Mine and Flinty Fell SSSI

### Site description:

At this site in the north-west Pennines, an assemblage of plants indicative of metal-rich soils (metallophytes) occurs in association with lead mine waste and river shingles of the rivers South Tyne and Nent. This site supports a rich metallophyte flora with substantial populations of six species of higher plant metallophytes: thrift *Armeria maritima*, moonwort *Botrychium lunaria*, Pyrenean scurvygrass *Cochlearia pyrenaica*, spring sandwort *Minuartia verna*, alpine penny-cress *Thlaspi caerulescens* and mountain pansy *Viola lutea*. The site is also of great importance for its lichen communities associated with both spoil and river shingle. A number of rare and scarce species are present, including *Peltigera venosa*, *P. neckeri* and *Sarcosagium campestre* var. *macrosporum*. The site shows the full succession from open sparsely vegetated shingle and spoil to closed turf. Transitions from metallophyte communities to both calcareous grassland and dry heath also occur.

**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:

- Calaminarian grasslands of the *Violetalia calaminariae*. (Grasslands on soils rich in heavy metals)

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

Register reference number: UK0030293

Date of registration: 14 June 2005

Signed: *Trew Salmon*

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