

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

## Citation for Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

<b>Name:</b>	Saltfleetby–Theddlethorpe Dunes and Gibraltar Point
<b>Unitary Authority/County:</b>	Lincolnshire
<b>SAC status:</b>	Designated on 1 April 2005
<b>Grid reference:</b>	TF480906
<b>SAC EU code:</b>	UK0030270
<b>Area (ha):</b>	960.20
<b>Component SSSI:</b>	Gibraltar Point SSSI, Saltfleetby–Theddlethorpe Dunes SSSI

### Site description:

The dune system on this composite site contains good examples of shifting dunes within a complex site that exhibits a range of dune types. The marram *Ammophila arenaria*-dominated dunes are associated with lyme-grass *Leymus arenarius* and sand sedge *Carex arenaria*. These shifting dunes are part of a successional transition with fixed dunes with dune grassland and sea-buckthorn *Hippophae rhamnoides*. The rapidly-accreting dunes on the seaward sand bars and shingle banks make this an important site for research into the processes of coastal development.

There are extensive areas of fixed dune vegetation within largely intact geomorphologically-active systems, with representation of early successional stages on the seaward side, and more stable areas. The lime-rich dunes support a rich and diverse flora, dominated in places by red fescue *Festuca rubra* and with unusual species including pyramidal orchid *Anacamptis pyramidalis*, bee orchid *Orchis apifera*, sea-holly *Eryngium maritimum*, lesser meadow-rue *Thalictrum minus* and sea campion *Silene maritima*.

This site also supports a good example of dunes with sea-buckthorn *Hippophae rhamnoides* in the main part of its natural range in the UK. This habitat develops on dune areas and is present in a range of successional stages from early colonisation to mature scrub associated with other species such as elder *Sambucus nigra*, hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* and ivy *Hedera helix*, typically associated with an understorey of ruderal species.

The dune slacks at this site are part of a successional transition between a range of dune features, and some have developed from saltmarsh to freshwater habitats after becoming isolated from tidal inundation by sand deposition. There is a range of different communities and the species present depend on the wetness of the slack, its location within the system and the management history. Some of the drier slacks support a very wide range of species; this has been encouraged by management. The wetter slacks often have more permanent standing water and are composed of stands of sedges and rushes.

**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:

- Dunes with *Hippophae rhamnoides*. (Dunes with sea-buckthorn)
- Embryonic shifting dunes
- Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes). (Dune grassland)\*
- Humid dune slacks
- Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* (white dunes). (Shifting dunes with marram)

Annex I priority habitats are denoted by an asterisk (\*).

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

Register reference number: UK0030270

Date of registration: 14 June 2005

Signed: *Trevor Salmon*

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