

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

Citation for Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

Name: Avon Gorge Woodlands
Unitary Authority/County: City of Bristol, North Somerset
SAC status: Designated on 1 April 2005
Grid reference: ST560741
SAC EU code: UK0012734
Area (ha): 152.35
Component SSSI: Avon Gorge SSSI


Site description:

The Avon Gorge is in south-west England. Natural cliffs, quarries and scree of Carboniferous limestone dramatically rise about 100m either side from the tidal River Avon, with grassland and woodland where slopes are less sheer. The site is important because of the small-leaved lime *Tilia cordata* woodland and the associated species-rich transitions to scrub and herb-rich calcareous grasslands. The open limestone grassland and cliff ledges support a high number of uncommon species, including rare whitebeams *Sorbus* spp., with two unique to the Avon Gorge, *S. bristoliensis* and *S. wilmottiana*, and other important plants, such as Bristol rock-cress *Arabis scabra* and honewort *Trinia glauca*. Small groves of yew *Taxus baccata* also occur on some of the stonier situations.

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:

- *Tilio-Acerion* forests of slopes, screes and ravines (mixed woodland on base-rich soils associated with rocky slopes)*
- Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (*Festuco-Brometalia*) (dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone)

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: UK0012734
Date of registration: 14 June 2005
Signed: 
On behalf of the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs