

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

Citation for Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

Name: East Devon Pebblebed Heaths
Unitary Authority/County: Devon
SAC status: Designated on 1 April 2005
Grid reference: SY040868
SAC EU code: UK0012602
Area (ha): 1119.94
Component SSSI: East Devon Pebblebed Heaths SSSI

Site description:

This is the largest block of lowland heathland in Devon. The site includes extensive areas of dry heath and wet heath associated with various other mire communities. The wet element occupies the lower-lying areas and includes good examples of cross-leaved heath – bog-moss (*Erica tetralix* – *Sphagnum compactum*) wet heath. The dry heaths are characterised by the presence of heather *Calluna vulgaris*, bell heather *Erica cinerea*, western gorse *Ulex gallii*, bristle bent *Agrostis curtisii*, purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea*, cross-leaved heath *E. tetralix* and tormentil *Potentilla erecta*. The presence of plants such as cross-leaved heath illustrates the more oceanic nature of these heathlands, as this species is typical of wet heath in the more continental parts of the UK. Populations of southern damselfly *Coenagrion mercuriale* occur in wet flushes within the site.


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:

- European dry heaths
- Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*. (Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath)

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:

- Southern damselfly *Coenagrion mercuriale*

This citation relates to a site entered in the Register of European Sites for Great Britain.
Register reference number: UK0012602
Date of registration: 14 June 2005

Signed: 

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