

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

## Citation for Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

**Name:** Overstrand Cliffs  
**Unitary Authority/County:** Norfolk  
**SAC status:** Designated on 1 April 2005  
**Grid reference:** TG235414  
**SAC EU code:** UK0030232  
**Area (ha):** 30.02  
**Component SSSI:** Overstrand Cliffs SSSI

### Site description:

Overstrand Cliffs are one of the best examples of unprotected vegetated soft cliffs on the North Sea coast. The cliffs are up to 70 metres high and are composed of Pleistocene sands and clays, with freshwater seepages in places, and are subject to moderately frequent cliff-falls and landslips. Much of the length is unprotected by sea defences and is therefore natural in character. The vegetation exhibits cycles of succession with ruderal communities developing on the newly-exposed sands and mud followed by partially-stabilised grasslands and scrub. Seepage areas support wet fen communities and in places perched reedbeds occur. The diverse range of habitats supports an outstanding range of invertebrates.

**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:

- Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts

This citation relates to a site entered in the Register of European Sites for Great Britain.  
Register reference number: UK0030232  
Date of registration: 14 June 2005

Signed: *Trevor Salmon*

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