

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

Citation for Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

Name: Bee's Nest and Green Clay Pits
Unitary Authority/County: Derbyshire
SAC status: Designated on 1 April 2005
Grid reference: SK240545
SAC EU code: UK0030087
Area (ha): 14.76
Component SSSI: Bee's Nest and Green Clay Pits SSSI

Site description:

The Carboniferous Limestone outcrop in north-west Derbyshire contains about 60 known 'pocket deposits' which are filled with silica sand, clay and pebble bands. Bee's Nest and Green Clay Pits are representative of such deposits. Silica sand has been commercially extracted from the pits for many years and where sand extraction has ceased the site has acquired biological interest.

The vegetation of both areas consists of complex mosaics of acidic and calcareous communities, together with open water, wet and flushed areas, and disturbed ground. Examples of both tall ungrazed, and short rock-ledge limestone grassland communities occur on the limestone around the pocket deposits. Typical species include common rock-rose *Helianthemum nummularium*, quaking-grass *Briza media*, fairy flax *Linum catharticum* and wild thyme *Thymus praecox*. The most interesting acidic communities are found on the stabilised slopes of old excavations to the north of Green Clay Pit and include scattered heather *Calluna vulgaris* and adder's tongue *Ophioglossum vulgatum*. Both areas contain well established ponds fringed by common spike-rush *Eleocharis palustris* and bulrush *Typha latifolia* with aquatic communities dominated by broadleaved pondweed *Potamogeton natans* and stoneworts *Chara* spp. Great crested newts *Triturus cristatus* occur in a number of ponds on site, which vary in size, profile and vegetation cover.

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:

- Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (*Festuco-Brometalia*). (Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone)

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:

- Great crested newt *Triturus cristatus*

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

Register reference number: UK0030087

Date of registration: 14 June 2005

Signed: *Trew Salmon*

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