

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 Hampshire Hangers
Unitary Authority/County: Hampshire
SAC status: Designated on 1 April 2005
Grid reference: SU739268
SAC EU code: UK0012723
Area (ha): 569.68
Component SSSI: Coombe Wood and The Lythe SSSI, Noar Hill SSSI, Selborne Common SSSI, Upper Greensand Hangers: Empshott to Hawkley SSSI, Upper Greensand Hangers: Wyck to Wheatley SSSI, Wealden Edge Hangers SSSI, Wick Wood and Worldham Hangers SSSI

Site description:

This site supports beech *Fagus sylvatica* woodlands which are extremely rich in vascular plants, including white helleborine *Cephalanthera damasonium*, violet helleborine *Epipactis purpurata*, green-flowered helleborine *E. phyllanthes* and Italian lords-and-ladies *Arum italicum*. The woods include areas with old pollards on former wood-pasture as well as high forest. There are transitions to mixed woodland including areas of small-leaved lime *Tilia cordata* on the steepest parts of the Upper Greensand scarp. The bryophyte flora is rich and includes several species that are rare in the lowlands. The Wealden Edge Hangers component of the site contains stands of yew *Taxus baccata* woodland.


Chalk grassland has developed in ancient quarries at Noar Hill and includes local species such as early gentian *Gentianella anglica* and an outstanding assemblage of orchids, including one of the largest UK populations of musk orchid *Herminium monorchis*.

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:

- *Asperulo-Fagetum* beech forests. (Beech forests on neutral to rich soils)
- Early gentian *Gentianella anglica*
- Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (*Festuco-Brometalia*). (Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone)
- Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (*Festuco-Brometalia*) (important orchid sites). (Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone, including important orchid sites)*
- *Taxus baccata* woods of the British Isles. (Yew-dominated woodland)*
- *Tilio-Acerion* forests of slopes, screes and ravines. (Mixed woodland on base-rich soils associated with rocky slopes)*

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: UK0012723
Date of registration: 14 June 2005

Signed: 

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