

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

## Citation for Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

**Name:** Briddlesford Copses  
**Unitary Authority/County:** Isle of Wight  
**SAC status:** Designated on 1 April 2005  
**Grid reference:** SZ548907  
**SAC EU code:** UK0030328  
**Area (ha):** 167.22  
**Component SSSI:** Briddlesford Copses SSSI

### Site description:

This complex of woodlands is the most structurally-diverse and species-rich area of ancient broadleaved woodland on the Isle of Wight. Ash – hazel (*Fraxinus excelsior* – *Corylus avellana*) and pedunculate oak – birch (*Quercus robur* – *Betula* sp.) woodlands cover large areas whilst there is a small area of sessile oak – birch (*Quercus petraea* – *Betula* sp.) woodland on the most strongly acid soils. Patches of hornbeam *Carpinus betulus*, beech *Fagus sylvatica*, alder *Alnus glutinosa* and wych elm *Ulmus glabra* dominated woodland also occur. Woodland rides and railway verges support species rich neutral to acidic grassland. The site supports a breeding population of Bechstein's bat *Myotis bechsteinii*. The bats use holes and crevices in mature trees for roosting and the interconnecting woodlands for feeding.

**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:

- Bechstein's bat *Myotis bechsteinii*

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

Register reference number: UK0030328

Date of registration: 14 June 2005

Signed: *Trew Salmon*

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