

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

Citation for Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

Name: Duncton to Bignor Escarpment
Unitary Authority/County: West Sussex
SAC status: Designated on 1 April 2005
Grid reference: SU965137
SAC EU code: UK0030138
Area (ha): 214.47
Component SSSI: Duncton to Bignor Escarpment SSSI

Site description:

The Duncton to Bignor Escarpment is an example of mature beech *Fagus sylvatica* woodland located on the steep scarp face of the South Downs. The site has developed over chalk which is overlain in places by a clay-with-flints capping. The resulting soil conditions have produced many local variations in the composition of the woodland. Beech dominates in a mosaic with ash *Fraxinus excelsior* woodland, scrub and grassland. Much of the beech woodland is high forest but with some old pollards. Rare plants present include white helleborine *Cephalanthera damasonium*, yellow bird's nest *Monotropa hypopitys*, green hellebore *Helleborus viridis* and limestone fern *Gymnocarpium robertium*. The woods also have a rich mollusc fauna.

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)

This citation relates to a site entered in the Register of European Sites for Great Britain.
Register reference number: UK0030138
Date of registration: 14 June 2005

Signed: *Trew Salmon*

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