

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

Citation for Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

Name: River Derwent
Unitary Authority/County: East Riding of Yorkshire, North Yorkshire, York
SAC status: Designated on 1 April 2005
Grid reference: SE704474
SAC EU code: UK0030253
Area (ha): 411.23
Component SSSI: River Derwent SSSI

Site description:

The Yorkshire Derwent is considered to represent one of the best British examples of the classic river profile. This lowland section, stretching from Ryemouth to the confluence with the Ouse, supports diverse communities of aquatic flora and fauna. Fed from an extensive upland catchment, the lowland course of the Derwent has been considerably diverted and extended as a result of glacial action in the Vale of Pickering.

The river supports an aquatic flora uncommon in Northern Britain. Several species, including river water-dropwort *Oenanthe fluviatilis*, flowering rush *Butomus umbellatus*, shining pondweed *Potamogeton lucens*, arrowhead *Sagittaria sagittifolia*, opposite-leaved pondweed *Groenlandia densa* and narrow-leaved water-parsnip *Berula erecta* are more typically found in lowland rivers in southern England.

The Derwent is noted for the diversity of its fish communities, which include river *Lampetra fluviatilis* and sea lampreys *Petromyzon marinus* populations that spawn in the lower reaches, as well as bullhead *Cottus gobio*. The diverse habitats also support otters *Lutra lutra*.

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:

- Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitriche-Batrachion* vegetation. (Rivers with floating vegetation often dominated by water-crowfoot)

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:

- Bullhead *Cottus gobio*
- River lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis*
- Otter *Lutra lutra*
- Sea lamprey *Petromyzon marinus*

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

Register reference number: UK0030253

Date of registration: 14 June 2005

Signed: *Trevor Salmon*

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