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

## Citation for Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

**Name:**                                      Bredon Hill

**Unitary Authority/County:**  Worcestershire

**SAC status:**                           Designated on 1 April 2005

**Grid reference:**                     SO965406

**SAC EU code:**                        UK0012587

**Area (ha):**                               359.86

**Component SSSI:**                  Bredon Hill SSSI

**Site description:**

Bredon Hill is an outlier of the Cotswold Hills composed of sedimentary rocks of Jurassic age. Throughout the historic period the hill was used for sheep pasture. A feature of the scarp slope is the large number of open-grown trees. These have been incorporated into pasture-woodlands and parklands, first established in 1275.

Bredon Hill has one of the best assemblages of invertebrates associated with ancient trees (known collectively as saproxylic invertebrates) in Britain. The saproxylic invertebrates are associated with ancient native trees, in particular ash *Fraxinus excelsior*. Pedunculate oak *Quercus robur*, beech *Fagus sylvatica* and field maple *Acer campestre* are also important. There are concentrations of such trees in Elmley Castle Deer Park to the east and at Bredon's Norton to the west, but important individual and groups of trees are found all along the northern side of the hill. Nectar sources, such as hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* in hedgerows and scrub, and thistles *Cirsium* spp. in grasslands, are important feeding and mating sites for the adults of saproxylic insects. The violet click beetle *Limoniscus violaceus* has been found at two separate sites on the hill.

**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:

- Violet click beetle *Limoniscus violaceus*

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This citation relates to a site entered in the Register of European Sites for Great Britain.
Register reference number: UK0012587
Date of registration: 14 June 2005

Signed: *Trevor Salmon*

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

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