

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

## Citation for Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

**Name:** Barnack Hills and Holes  
**Unitary Authority/County:** City of Peterborough  
**SAC status:** Designated on 1 April 2005  
**Grid reference:** TF075046  
**SAC EU code:** UK0030031  
**Area (ha):** 23.27  
**Component SSSI:** Barnack Hills and Holes SSSI

### Site description:


Barnack Hills and Holes is an area of Jurassic Limestone grassland which has developed on the site of a disused mineral working. The grassland is of a type which is characteristic of eastern England and which is now scarce in Britain.

The grassland is of an upright brome *Bromopsis erecta*-tor-grass *Brachypodium pinnatum* type and there is a rich and varied flora with a number of species which are nationally scarce. It supports what is considered to be the largest UK population of the nationally scarce man orchid *Aceras anthropophorum* and a rich assemblage of other orchid species, such as fragrant orchid *Gymnadenia conopsea*, pyramidal orchid *Anacamptis pyramidalis* and bee orchid *Ophrys apifera*. Of particular note is the abundance of pasque flower *Pulsatilla vulgaris*. Many other species typical of limestone grassland occur including purple milk-vetch *Astragalus danicus* and the common rock-rose *Helianthemum nummularium*.

**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:

- Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (*Festuco-Brometalia*) (Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone, including important orchid sites)\*

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: UK0030031  
Date of registration: 14 June 2005  
Signed:   
On behalf of the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs