

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

Citation for Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

Name: Parkgate Down
Unitary Authority/County: Kent
SAC status: Designated on 1 April 2005
Grid reference: TR168459
SAC EU code: UK0030338
Area (ha): 6.94
Component SSSI: Parkgate Down SSSI


Site description:

Parkgate Down is situated on the chalk of the North Downs on the west-facing slope of a dry valley. The grassland is dominated by tor-grass *Brachypodium pinnatum* and fescues *Festuca* spp. A wide range of typical chalk downland plants are also present including dwarf thistle *Cirsium acaule*, lady's bedstraw *Galium verum*, bird's-foot trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*, common milkwort *Polygala vulgaris* and salad burnet *Poterium sanguisorba*. Columbine *Aquilegia vulgaris* also occurs here and the scarce slender bedstraw *Galium pumilum* is found at the north end. The site contains an outstanding assemblage of orchids including the nationally rare monkey orchid *Orchis simia* and late spider orchid *Ophrys fuciflora*, together with the nationally scarce musk orchid *Herminium monorchis* and lady orchid *Orchis purpurea*.

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*) (important orchid sites). (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: UK0030338
Date of registration: 14 June 2005
Signed: 
On behalf of the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs