

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

Citation for Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

Name: Folkestone to Etchinghill Escarpment
Unitary Authority/County: Kent
SAC status: Designated on 1 April 2005
Grid reference: TR183388
SAC EU code: UK0012835
Area (ha): 181.94
Component SSSI: Folkestone to Etchinghill Escarpment SSSI


Site description:

This extensive area of chalk grassland is located on the steep escarpment north of Folkestone. Most of the downland is dominated by tor-grass *Brachypodium pinnatum* and fescues *Festuca* spp. in a mixed sward of quaking-grass *Briza media*, crested hair-grass *Koeleria macrantha* and upright brome *Bromopsis erecta*. Many herbs characteristic of unimproved grassland are present such as horseshoe vetch *Hippocrepis comosa*, salad burnet *Sanguisorba minor*, squinancywort *Asperula cynanchica* and small scabious *Scabiosa columbaria*. The site contains an important assemblage of rare and scarce species, including early spider-orchid *Ophrys sphegodes* and late spider-orchid *O. fuciflora*.

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: UK0012835
Date of registration: 14 June 2005
Signed: 
On behalf of the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs