

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

Citation for Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

Name: Chilterns Beechwoods

Unitary Authority/County: Buckinghamshire, Hertfordshire, Oxfordshire, Windsor and Maidenhead

SAC status: Designated on 1 April 2005

Grid reference: SP975134

SAC EU code: UK0012724

Area (ha): 1276.48

Component SSSI: Ashridge Commons and Woods SSSI, Aston Rowant Woods SSSI, Bisham Woods SSSI, Bradenham Woods, Park Wood and The Coppice SSSI, Ellesborough and Kimble Warrens SSSI, Hollowhill and Pullingshill Woods SSSI, Naphill Common SSSI, Tring Woodlands SSSI, Windsor Hill SSSI

Site description:

The Chilterns Beechwoods represent a very extensive tract of ancient semi-natural beech *Fagus sylvatica* forests in the centre of the habitat's UK range. The woodland is an important part of a mosaic with species-rich chalk grassland and scrub. A distinctive feature in the woodland flora is the occurrence of the rare coralroot *Cardamine bulbifera*. Standing and fallen dead timber provide habitat for dead-wood (saproxylic) invertebrates, including stag beetle *Lucanus cervus*.

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:

- *Asperulo-Fagetum* beech forests. (Beech forests on neutral to rich soils)
- Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (*Festuco-Brometalia*). (Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone)

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:

- Stag beetle *Lucanus cervus*

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

Register reference number: UK0012724

Date of registration: 14 June 2005

Signed: *Trevor Salmon*

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