

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

Citation for Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

Name: Gang Mine
Unitary Authority/County: Derbyshire
SAC status: Designated on 1 April 2005
Grid reference: SK286557
SAC EU code: UK0012817
Area (ha): 8.26
Component SSSI: Gang Mine SSSI

Site description:

Gang Mine supports Calaminarian grassland (grasslands on soils rich in heavy metals) that have colonised a large area of mine workings and spoil heaps on limestone. They display wide variations in slope, aspect and soil toxicity and the extent of plant colonisation ranges from largely bare areas through to closed turf. Floristically the site contains the richest anthropogenic Calaminarian grassland in the UK, with abundant metallophyte (metal tolerant) species like spring sandwort *Minuartia verna* and alpine penny-cress *Thlaspi caerulescens* in the more open areas. In the more closed grassland turf mountain pansy *Viola lutea*, the small fern moonwort *Botrychium lunaria* and lichens become more prominent. The more established turf has a calcareous grassland character including the uncommon limestone bedstraw *Galium sternerii* and unusually for this habitat dyer's greenweed *Genista tinctoria*. Many of these species are likely to be distinct genotypes adapted to soils rich in heavy metals.

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:

- Calaminarian grasslands of the *Violetalia calaminariae*. (Grasslands on soils rich in heavy metals)

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

Register reference number: UK0012817

Date of registration: 14 June 2005

Signed: *Trevor Salmon*

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