

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

Citation for Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

Name: South Dartmoor Woods
Unitary Authority/County: Devon
SAC status: Designated on 1 April 2005
Grid reference: SX710701
SAC EU code: UK0012749
Area (ha): 2157.15
Component SSSI: Bovey Valley SSSI, Hembury Woods SSSI, Holne Woodlands SSSI, Sampford Spiney SSSI, Shaugh Prior Woods SSSI, Teign Valley Woods SSSI, Yarner Wood and Trendlebere Down SSSI


Site description:

This complex of old sessile oak woods in south-west England supports nationally important assemblages of lower plants and dry *Lobarion* communities that are unique in Western Europe. This complex of old sessile oak *Quercus petraea* supports important assemblages of lower plants and dry *Lobarion* communities that are unique in Western Europe. The woods are notable for the variations in stand type that reflect past management (old coppice and high forest) and also include grazed and ungrazed areas. The woodland is part of a complex mosaic that includes heathland and species associated with open ground, such as the high brown fritillary *Argynnis adippe* and pearl-bordered fritillary butterfly *Boloria euphrosyne*. Variations also arise due to geology, resulting in the presence of small-leaved lime *Tilia cordata*, ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, wild service tree *Sorbus torminalis*, and small areas of wet woodland dominated by alder *Alnus glutinosa* and willow *Salix* spp.

Heathland on Trendlebere Down to the north of Yarner Wood is dominated by heather *Calluna vilgaris* and also contains abundant bell heather *Erica cinerea*, cross-leaved heath *Erica tetralix*, western gorse *Ulex gallii*, purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea* and scrub birch *Betula* sp. Secondary birch has also developed with bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* on the sites of old field systems, where there is active regeneration of oak.

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:

- European dry heaths
- Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles. (Western acidic oak woodland)

This citation relates to a site entered in the Register of European Sites for Great Britain.
Register reference number: UK0012749
Date of registration: 14 June 2005
Signed: 
On behalf of the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs