

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

Citation for Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

Name: Hackpen Hill
Unitary Authority/County: Oxfordshire
SAC status: Designated on 1 April 2005
Grid reference: SU352847
SAC EU code: UK0030162
Area (ha): 35.83
Component SSSI: Hackpen, Warren and Gramp's Hill Downs SSSI

Site description:

Hackpen Hill is an extensive area of unimproved chalk grassland in the North Wessex Downs. The site has a variety of aspect and gradients, with species-rich grassland dominated by red fescue *Festuca rubra* and upright brome *Bromopsis erecta*. The herb flora includes a significant population of early gentian *Gentianella anglica*, as well as autumn gentian *G. amarella*, and a large population of Chiltern gentian *G. germanica*, together with fragrant orchid *Gymnadenia conopsea*, frog orchid *Coeloglossum viride*, horseshoe vetch *Hippocrepis comosa*, common rock-rose *Helianthemum nummularium* and dwarf thistle *Cirsium acaule*.

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*). (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:

- Early gentian *Gentianella anglica*

This citation relates to a site entered in the Register of European Sites for Great Britain.
Register reference number: UK0030162
Date of registration: 14 June 2005

Signed: *Trevor Salmon*

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