

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

## Citation for Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

**Name:** Mendip Woodlands  
**Unitary Authority/County:** Somerset  
**SAC status:** Designated on 1 April 2005  
**Grid reference:** ST706454  
**SAC EU code:** UK0030048  
**Area (ha):** 253.86  
**Component SSSI:** Asham Wood SSSI, Cheddar Wood SSSI, Ebbor Gorge SSSI, Rodney Stoke SSSI

### Site description:

Mendip Woodlands contains extensive examples of mixed woodlands on limestone. They have developed on dolomitic conglomerate, lower limestone shales and Carboniferous limestone strata on the southern escarpment of the Mendip Hills. Although they are dominated by ash *Fraxinus excelsior* a, rich variety of other trees and shrubs are present, including elm *Ulmus* spp., small-leaved lime *Tilia cordata* field maple *Acer campestre* and whitebeam *Sorbus aria*. At Ebbor Gorge elm rather than lime is mixed with ash in a steep-sided gorge; at both Rodney Stoke and Cheddar Wood lime and ash are found on rocky slopes with patches of deeper soil between the outcrops. Ferns characteristic of this woodland type, such as hart's-tongue *Phyllitis scolopendrium* and shield-ferns *Polystichum* spp., are common. The site is in the centre of the range of common dormouse *Muscardinus avellanarius* and Cheddar Wood holds a large population of this species.

**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:

- *Tilio-Acerion* forests of slopes, screes and ravines. (Mixed woodland on base-rich soils associated with rocky slopes)\*

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: UK0030048

Date of registration: 14 June 2005

Signed: *Trew Salmon*

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