

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

Citation for Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

Name: Lundy
Unitary Authority/County: Devon
SAC status: Designated on 1 April 2005
Grid reference: SS136465
SAC EU code: UK0013114
Area (ha): 3064.53
Component SSSI: Lundy SSSI

Site description:

Lundy Island is exposed to a wide range of physical conditions as a result of differing degrees of wave action and tidal stream strength on sheltered and exposed coasts and headlands. This range of physical conditions, combined with the site's topographical variation, has resulted in the presence of an unusually diverse complex of marine habitats and associated communities within a small area. The granite and slate reefs of Lundy extend well over 1 km offshore and drop steeply into deep water in some areas. The variety of habitats and associated species on the reefs is outstanding and includes, for example, a large number of seaweeds and many rare or unusual species, including Mediterranean-Atlantic species representing biogeographically distinct communities at, or very close to, their northern limit of distribution. In particular, fragile long-lived species, such as the soft coral *Parerythropodium coralloides*, sea-fan *Eunicella verrucosa* and a variety of erect branching sponges, are found in deep, sheltered conditions, particularly on the east coast of the island. All five British species of cup-coral are found here, including the scarlet and gold star-coral *Balanophyllia regia* and the sunset cup-coral *Leptopsammia pruvoti*.

Rocks and sea-level caves support a breeding colony of grey seal *Halichoerus grypus*.

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:

- Reefs
- Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time. (Subtidal sandbanks)
- Submerged or partially submerged sea caves

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:

- Grey seal *Halichoerus grypus*

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

Register reference number: UK0013114

Date of registration: 14 June 2005

Signed: *Trevor Salmon*

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