

Special Areas of Conservation

Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (the ‘Habitats Directive’) was adopted on 21 May 1992, requiring Member States to maintain or restore habitats and species at a favourable conservation status in the community. Following a period of consultation, sites to be designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) must be agreed with the European Commission. Special Protection Areas (SPAs) for birds and SACs will together make up a network of sites in Europe called Natura 2000.

English Nature carries out consultations on behalf of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with owners, occupiers, local authorities and other interested parties on possible SACs (pSACs) in England.

241 sites in England have been proposed to Government by English Nature. Following consultation, 232 of these have been submitted to the European Commission as candidate Special Areas of Conservation (cSACs).

Details of the protection afforded to candidate SACs are given in Planning Policy Guidance Note 9, Nature Conservation, HMSO 1994 and The Conservation (National Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended).

Tranche 1	= 20 Jun 95	Tranche 8	= 1 Oct 98	Tranche 18	=20 Jul 01
Tranche 2	= 8 Jan 96	Tranche 9	= 2 Dec 98	Tranche 21	=10 May 02
Tranche 3	= 16 Oct 96	Tranche 11	= 4 Jun 99	Tranche 24	=5 Mar 03
Tranche 4	= 17 Oct 97	Tranche 14	= 29 Jan 01	Tranche 26	=30 May 03
Tranche 5	= 20 Mar 98	Tranche 15	= 16 Mar 01	Tranche 31	=29 Mar 04
Tranche 7	= 12 Jun 98	Tranche 16	= 11 May 01		

Candidate SAC	County	First Submitted	Area ha
Alde, Ore and Butley Estuaries	Suffolk	29 Jan 01	1561.53
Arnecliff & Park Hole Woods	North Yorkshire	11 May 01	52.49
Asby Complex	Cumbria	8 Jan 96	3122.23
Ashdown Forest	East Sussex	16 Mar 01	2729
Aston Rowant	Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire	29 Jan 01	127.75
Avon Gorge Woodlands	Somerset	8 Jan 96	152.35
Barnack Hills and Holes	Cambridgeshire	20 Mar 98	23.27
Baston Fen	Lincolnshire	29 Jan 01	2.2
Bath and Bradford-on-Avon Bats	Somerset, Wiltshire	8 Jan 96	107.16
Beast Cliff - Whitby (Robin Hood's Bay)	North Yorkshire	29 Jan 01	260.2
Bee's Nest and Green Clay Pits	Derbyshire	16 Mar 01	14.76
Beer Quarry Caves	Devon	20 Jun 95	31.1
Benacre to Easton Bavents Lagoons	Suffolk	20 Jun 95	366.93
Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast	Northumberland, Scottish Borders	16 Oct 96	65334.94
Birklands and Bilhaugh	Nottinghamshire	20 Jun 95	271.84
Blackstone Point	Devon	16 Mar 01	7.38
Blean Complex	Kent	20 Jun 95	520.62
Bolton Fell and Walton Mosses	Cumbria	pSAC	1058.63
Border Mires, Kielder-Butterburn	Cumbria, Northumberland	16 Oct 96	11851.77
Borrowdale Woodland Complex	Cumbria	20 Jun 95	667.83
Bracket's Coppice	Dorset	16 Mar 01	53.66
Braunton Burrows	Devon	8 Jan 96	1346.64
Breckland	Norfolk, Suffolk	8 Jan 96	7548.06
Bredon Hill	Worcestershire	20 Jun 95	359.86
Breney Common and Goss and Tregoss Moors	Cornwall	29 Jan 01	816.01
Briddlesford Copses	Isle of Wight	29 Jan 04	167.22
Brown Moss	Shropshire	29 Jan 01	32.03
Burnham Beeches	Buckinghamshire	12 Jun 98	382.76
Butser Hill	Hampshire	16 Mar 01	238.66
Calf Hill and Cragg Woods	Lancashire	29 Jan 01	34.38
Cannock Chase	Staffordshire	16 Mar 01	1236.93
Cannock Extension Canal	Staffordshire	20 Jun 95	5.47
Carrine Common	Cornwall	20 Jun 95	45.86

Castle Eden Dene	Durham	20 Jun 95	194.4
Castle Hill	East Sussex	20 Jun 95	114.68
Cerne and Sydling Downs	Dorset	29 Jan 01	369.08
Chesil and The Fleet	Dorset	16 Oct 96	1631.63
Chilmark Quarries	Wiltshire	20 Jun 95	9.7
Chilterns Beechwoods	Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire	20 Jun 95	633.78
Clints Quarry	Cumbria	12 Jun 98	12.03
Cothill Fen	Oxfordshire	20 Jun 95	43.55
Cotswolds Beechwoods	Gloucestershire	8 Jan 96	585.85
Craven Limestone Complex	North Yorkshire	12 Jun 98	5328.25
Crookhill Brick Pit	Dorset	1 Apr 05	4.71
Crowdy Marsh	Cornwall	30 May 03	92.65
Culm Grasslands	Devon	20 Jun 95	768.69
Cumbrian Marsh Fritillary Site	Cumbria	29 Jan 01	22.96
Dartmoor	Devon	8 Jan 96	22848.34
Dawlish Warren	Devon	29 Jan 01	58.84
Dee Estuary	Cheshire, Flintshire, Merseyside	pSAC	15807.22
Denby Grange Colliery Ponds	West Yorkshire	1 Apr 05	18.53
Dew's Ponds	Suffolk	20 Jul 01	6.74
Devils Dyke	Cambridgeshire	20 Mar 98	8.02
Dixton Wood	Gloucestershire	29 Jan 01	13.14
Dorset Heaths	Dorset, Hampshire	1 Oct 98	5730.73
Dorset Heaths (Purbeck & Wareham) and Studland Dunes	Dorset	1 Oct 98	2221.94
Dover to Kingdown Cliffs	Kent	29 Jan 04	183.85
Downton Gorge	Herefordshire	8 Jan 96	69.3
Drigg Coast	Cumbria	8 Jan 96	1397.44
Duddon Mosses	Cumbria	8 Jan 96	313.07
Duncton to Bignor Escarpment	West Sussex	29 Jan 01	214.47
Dungeness	East Sussex, Kent	8 Jan 96	3223.56
Durham Coast	Durham	16 Mar 01	393.63
East Devon Pebblebed Heaths	Devon	12 Jun 98	1119.94
East Hampshire Hangers	Hampshire	8 Jan 96	569.68
Ebernoe Common	West Sussex	1Apr 05	234.05
Eller's Wood and Sand Dale	North Yorkshire	20 Mar 98	4.09
Emer Bog	Hampshire	16 Mar 01	37.5
Ensor's Pool	Warwickshire	8 Jan 96	3.8
Epping Forest	Essex	8 Jan 96	1604.95
Essex Estuaries	Essex	16 Oct 96	46140.82
Eversden and Wimpole woods	Cambridgeshire	29 Jan 04	66.48
Exmoor and Quantock Oakwoods	Devon, Somerset	29 Jan 01	1895.17
Exmoor Heaths	Devon, Somerset	20 Mar 98	10705.87
Fal and Helford	Cornwall	16 Oct 96	6387.8
Fen Bog	North Yorkshire	30 May 03	27.49
Fenland	Cambridgeshire	20 Jun 95	618.64
Fenns, Whixall, Bettisfield, Wem and Cadney Mosses	Clwyd, Shropshire	8 Jan 96	946.22
Fens Pools	West Midlands	29 Jan 01	20.4
Flamborough Head	East Riding of Yorkshire, North Yorkshire	8 Jan 96	6311.96
Folkestone to Etchinghill Escarpment	Kent	8 Jan 96	181.94
Fontmell and Melbury Downs	Dorset	8 Jan 96	260.75
Ford Moss	Northumberland	29 Jan 01	61.14
Gang Mine	Derbyshire	20 Jun 95	8.26
Godrevy Head to St Agnes	Cornwall	20 Jun 95	128.07
Great Yews	Wiltshire	20 Jun 95	28.71
Grimsthorpe	Lincolnshire	20 Mar 98	0.35
Hackpen Hill	Oxfordshire	29 Jan 01	35.83
Harbottle Moors	Northumberland	30 May 03	936.3
Hartslock Wood	Oxfordshire	16 Mar 01	29.9
Hastings Cliffs	East Sussex	16 Mar 01	183.72
Hatfield Moor	South Yorkshire	1 Apr 05	1363.55
Helbeck and Swindale Woods	Cumbria	29 Jan 01	136.38
Hestercombe House	Somerset	16 Mar 01	0.08
Holme Moor and Clean Moor	Somerset	20 Jun 95	7.58
Holnest,	Dorset	1 Apr 05	54.83

Humber Estuary	East Riding of Yorkshire, Lincolnshire	pSAC	39492.89
Ingleborough Complex	North Yorkshire	12 Jun 98	5769.28
Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs	Dorset	12 Jun 98	1447.5
Isle of Wight Downs	Isle of Wight	20 Jun 95	461.8
Isles of Scilly Complex	Cornwall	8 Jan 96	26850.95
Kennet and Lambourn Floodplain	Berkshire, Wiltshire	17 Oct 97	114.47
Kennet Valley Alderwoods	Berkshire	29 Jan 01	56.77
Kingley Vale	West Sussex	20 Jun 95	208.05
Kirk Deighton	North Yorkshire	20 Jul 01	4.03
Lake District High Fells – incorporating Helvellyn and Fairfield & Wasdale Screes	Cumbria	16 Mar 01	26999.36
Lewes Downs	East Sussex	20 Jun 95	146.86
Little Wittenham	Oxfordshire	16 Mar 01	68.76
Lower Bostraze & Leswidden	Cornwall	20 Mar 98	2.33
Lower Derwent Valley	East Riding of Yorkshire, North Yorkshire	8 Jan 96	915.91
Lundy	Devon	8 Jan 96	3064.53
Lydden and Temple Ewell Downs	Kent	20 Jun 95	61.7
Lyppard Grange Ponds	Worcestershire	16 Mar 01	1.09
Manchester Mosses	Cheshire, Greater Manchester	16 Mar 01	172.81
Mells Valley	Somerset	8 Jan 96	28.22
Mendip Limestone Grasslands	Somerset	29 Jan 01	417.47
Mendip Woodlands	Somerset	20 Mar 98	253.86
Minsmere to Walberswick Heaths and Marshes	Suffolk	20 Jun 95	1265.52
Mole Gap to Reigate Escarpment	Surrey	8 Jan 96	887.68
Moor House – Upper Teesdale	Cumbria, Durham	8 Jan 96	38795.99
Morecambe Bay	Cumbria, Lancashire	16 Oct 96	57473.26
Morecambe Bay Pavements	Cumbria, Lancashire	8 Jan 96	2609.69
Motey Meadows	Staffordshire	12 Jun 98	43.87
Mottisfont Bats	Hampshire	29 Jan 04	196.88
Naddle Forest	Cumbria	30 May 03	360.89
Nene Washes	Cambridgeshire	29 Jan 01	88.19
Newham Fen	Northumberland	20 Jun 95	13.49
Newlyn Downs	Cornwall	20 Mar 98	115.71
Norfolk Valley Fens	Norfolk	20 Jun 95	616.21
North Downs Woodlands	Kent	29 Jan 01	287.58
North Meadow and Clattinger Farm	Wiltshire	8 Jan 96	104.88
North Norfolk Coast	Norfolk	8 Jan 96	3175.36
North Northumberland Dunes	Northumberland	20 Jun 95	1147.56
North Pennine Dales Meadows	Cumbria, Durham, Lancashire, Northumberland, North Yorkshire	20 Jun 95	497.09
North Pennine Moors – incorporating Bollihope, Pikestone, Eggleston & Woodland Fells	Cumbria, Durham, Northumberland, North Yorkshire	20 Jul 01	103109.42
North Somerset & Mendip Bats	Somerset	20 Mar 98	561.19
North York Moors	North Yorkshire	16 Mar 01	44082.25
Oak Mere	Cheshire	20 Jun 95	68.82
Orfordness-Shingle Street	Suffolk	8 Jan 96	901.19
Orton Pit	City of Peterborough	1 Apr 05	140.00
Ouse Washes	Cambridgeshire, Norfolk	8 Jan 96	311.35
Overstrand Cliffs	Norfolk	29 Jan 01	30.02
Ox Close	North Yorkshire	29 Jan 01	141.25
Oxford Meadows	Oxfordshire	20 Jun 95	265.89
Parkgate Down	Kent	30 May 03	6.94
Paston Great Barn	Norfolk	29 Jan 01	0.95
Pasturefields Salt Marsh	Staffordshire	20 Jun 95	7.7
Peak District Dales – incorporating Peak District Dales Woodlands	Derbyshire, Staffordshire	8 Jan 96	2326.33
Penhale Dunes	Cornwall	8 Jan 96	621.34
Peter's Pit	Kent	11 May 01	28.3
Pewsey Downs	Wiltshire	20 Jun 95	153.87
Phoenix United Mine and Crow's Nest	Cornwall	16 Mar 01	48.72
Plymouth Sound and Estuaries	Devon, Cornwall	16 Oct 96	6402.03
Polruan to Polperro	Cornwall	29 Jan 01	213.39
Portholme	Cambridgeshire	12 Jun 98	91.93
Prescombe Down	Wiltshire	20 Jun 95	76.14
Quants	Somerset	29 Jan 01	20.29
Queendown Warren	Kent	20 Jun 95	14.28

Rex Graham Reserve	Suffolk	20 Jun 95	2.67
Richmond Park	Greater London	29 Jan 01	846.68
River Avon	Dorset, Hampshire, Wiltshire	20 Mar 98	498.24
River Axe	Devon, Dorset	29 Jan 01	25.78
River Camel	Cornwall	1 Oct 98	621.17
River Clun	Herefordshire, Shropshire	29 Jan 01	14.93
River Dee and Bala Lake	Cheshire, Denbighshire, Flintshire, Gwynedd, Shropshire, Wrexham	1 Apr 05	1308.93
River Derwent	East Riding of Yorkshire, North Yorkshire	16 Mar 01	411.23
River Derwent & Bassenthwaite Lake	Cumbria	12 Jun 98	1832.96
River Eden	Cumbria	20 Mar 98	2463.23
River Ehen	Cumbria	20 Mar 98	24.39
River Itchen	Hampshire	20 Mar 98	309.26
River Kent	Cumbria	11 May 01	109.12
River Lambourn	Berkshire	29 Jan 01	27.27
River Mease	Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Staffordshire	11 May 01	21.86
River Tweed	Northumberland, Scottish Borders	1 Apr 05	3795.88
River Wensum	Norfolk	16 Mar 01	381.74
River Wye	Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Monmouthshire, Powys	12 Jun 98	2265.34
Rixton Clay Pits	Cheshire	29 Jan 01	13.99
Rochdale Canal	Greater Manchester	11 May 01	25.55
Rodborough Common	Gloucestershire	8 Jan 96	104.26
Roman Wall Loughs	Northumberland	29 Jan 01	684.26
Rook Clift	West Sussex	20 Mar 98	10.82
Rooksmoor	Dorset	20 Jun 95	61.36
Roudsea Wood and Mosses	Cumbria	8 Jan 96	470.45
Roydon Common and Dersingham Bog	Norfolk	8 Jan 96	351.83
Salisbury Plain	Hampshire, Wiltshire	8 Jan 96	21438.1
Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes and Gibraltar Point	Lincolnshire	29 Jan 01	960.2
Sandwich Bay	Kent	8 Jan 96	1137.87
Sefton Coast	Merseyside	8 Jan 96	4564.69
Severn Estuary	Cardiff, Gloucestershire, Monmouthshire, Newport, Somerset, Vale of Glamorgan	pSAC	73487.75
Shortheath Common	Hampshire	16 Mar 01	58.94
Sidmouth to West Bay	Devon, Dorset	8 Jan 96	897.3
Simonside Hills	Northumberland	1 Apr 05	2082.6
Singleton and Cocking Tunnels	West Sussex	30 May 03	4.8
Skipwith Common	North Yorkshire	11 May 01	295.2
Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons	Hampshire, Isle of Wight	16 Oct 96	36.24
Solent Maritime	Hampshire, Isle of Wight, West Sussex	1 Oct 98	11325.09
Solway Firth	Cumbria, Dumfries & Galloway	16 Oct 96	43687.99
Solway Moss	Cumbria	pSAC	200
South Dartmoor Woods	Devon	8 Jan 96	1422.65
South Devon Shore Dock	Devon	20 Mar 98	341.01
South Hams	Devon	8 Jan 96	129.53
South Pennine Moors	Cheshire, Derbyshire, Greater Manchester, Lancashire, North Yorkshire, South Yorkshire, Staffordshire, West Yorkshire	16 Mar 01	64983.13
South Solway Mosses – formerly Solway Mosses	Cumbria	16 Oct 96	2954.04
South Wight Maritime	Isle of Wight	1 Oct 98	19862.71
St Albans Head to Durlston Head	Dorset	8 Jan 96	287.22
St Austell Clay Pits	Cornwall	16 Mar 01	0.61
Staverton Park and The Thicks, Wantisden	Suffolk	20 Jun 95	81.45
Stodmarsh	Kent	16 Mar 01	564.64
Strensall Common	North Yorkshire	29 Jan 01	569.63
Subberthwaite, Blawith and Torver Low Commons	Cumbria	16 Mar 01	1865.17
Tarn Moss	Cumbria	30 May 03	17.03
Thanet Coast	Kent	16 Oct 96	2803.84
The Broads	Norfolk, Suffolk	8 Jan 96	5865.6
The Lizard	Cornwall	8 Jan 96	3257.11
The Mens	West Sussex	20 Jun 95	203.28

The New Forest	Hampshire, Wiltshire	20 Jun 95	29262.36
The Stiperstones and The Hollies	Shropshire	20 Jun 95	601.46
The Wash and North Norfolk Coast	Lincolnshire, Norfolk	16 Oct 96	107761.28
Thorne Moor	East Riding of Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, South Yorkshire	20 Jun 95	1917.4
Thrislington	Durham	20 Jun 95	22.58
Thursley, Ash, Pirbright and Chobham	Surrey	8 Jan 96	5138
Tintagel-Marshland-Clovelly Coast	Devon, Cornwall	8 Jan 96	2429.84
Tregonning Hill	Cornwall	20 Jun 95	5.21
Tweed Estuary	Northumberland	16 Mar 01	155.93
Tyne and Allen River Gravels	Northumberland	20 Jun 95	36.84
Tyne and Nent	Cumbria	16 Mar 01	36.84
Ullswater Oakwoods	Cumbria	29 Jan 01	122.31
Walton Moss	Cumbria	30 May 03	285.89
Wast Water	Cumbria	20 Mar 98	286.21
Waveney and Little Ouse Valley Fens	Norfolk, Suffolk	8 Jan 96	193.18
West Dorset Alderwoods	Dorset	16 Mar 01	329.29
West Midlands Mosses	Cheshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire	20 Jun 95	184.18
Wimbledon Common	Greater London	29 Jan 01	348.31
Windsor Forest and Great Park	Berkshire, Surrey	20 Jun 95	1687.26
Winterton-Horsey Dunes	Norfolk	8 Jan 96	425.94
Witherslack Mosses	Cumbria	16 Mar 01	486.53
Woolmer Forest	Hampshire	16 Mar 01	666.68
Wormley Hoddesdonpark Woods	Hertfordshire	8 Jan 96	335.53
Wye and Crundale Downs	Kent	8 Jan 96	112.24
Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites	Gloucestershire, Monmouthshire	8 Jan 96	148.87
Wye Valley Woodlands	Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Monmouthshire	8 Jan 96	913.62
Yewbarrow Woods	Cumbria	29 Jan 01	112.89

