

---

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

---

**2010 No. 490**

**The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010**

**PART 2**

**CONSERVATION OF NATURAL HABITATS AND HABITATS OF SPECIES**

*European sites*

**Designation of special areas of conservation**

**11.**—(1) Once a site of Community importance in England or Wales has been adopted in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 4(2) of the Habitats Directive, the appropriate authority must designate that site as a special area of conservation as soon as possible and no later than six years from the date of adoption of that site.

- (2) The appropriate authority must establish priorities for the designation of sites in the light of—
- (a) the importance of the sites for the maintenance or restoration at a favourable conservation status of—
    - (i) a natural habitat type specified in Annex I to the Habitats Directive, or
    - (ii) a species specified in Annex II to the Habitats Directive,and for the coherence of Natura 2000; and
  - (b) the threats of degradation or destruction to which the sites are exposed.