

# The UK SPA network: its scope and content





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## Volume 3: Site accounts

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# Appendix 7

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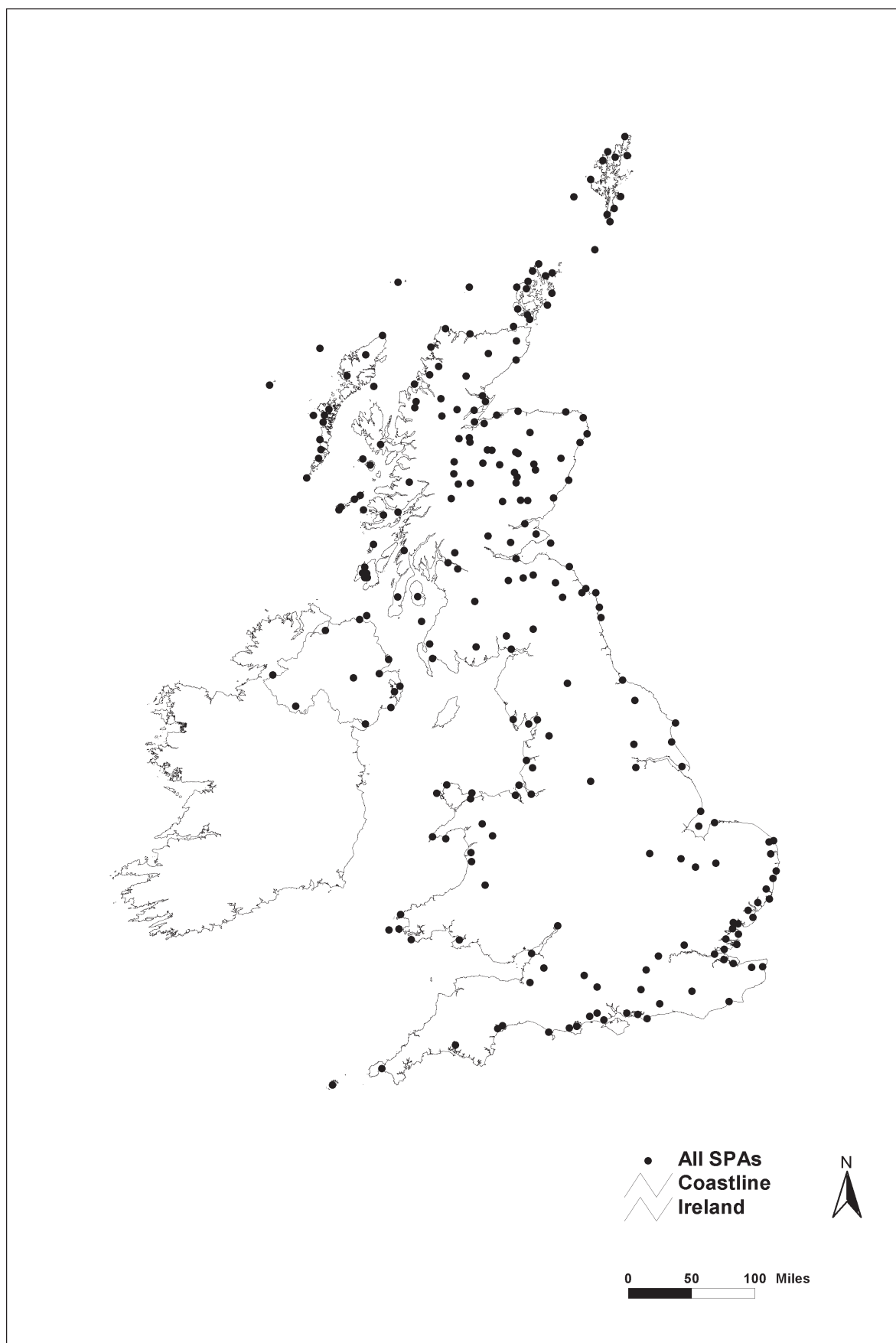
Site accounts, maps, and  
lists

## A7.1 Site maps

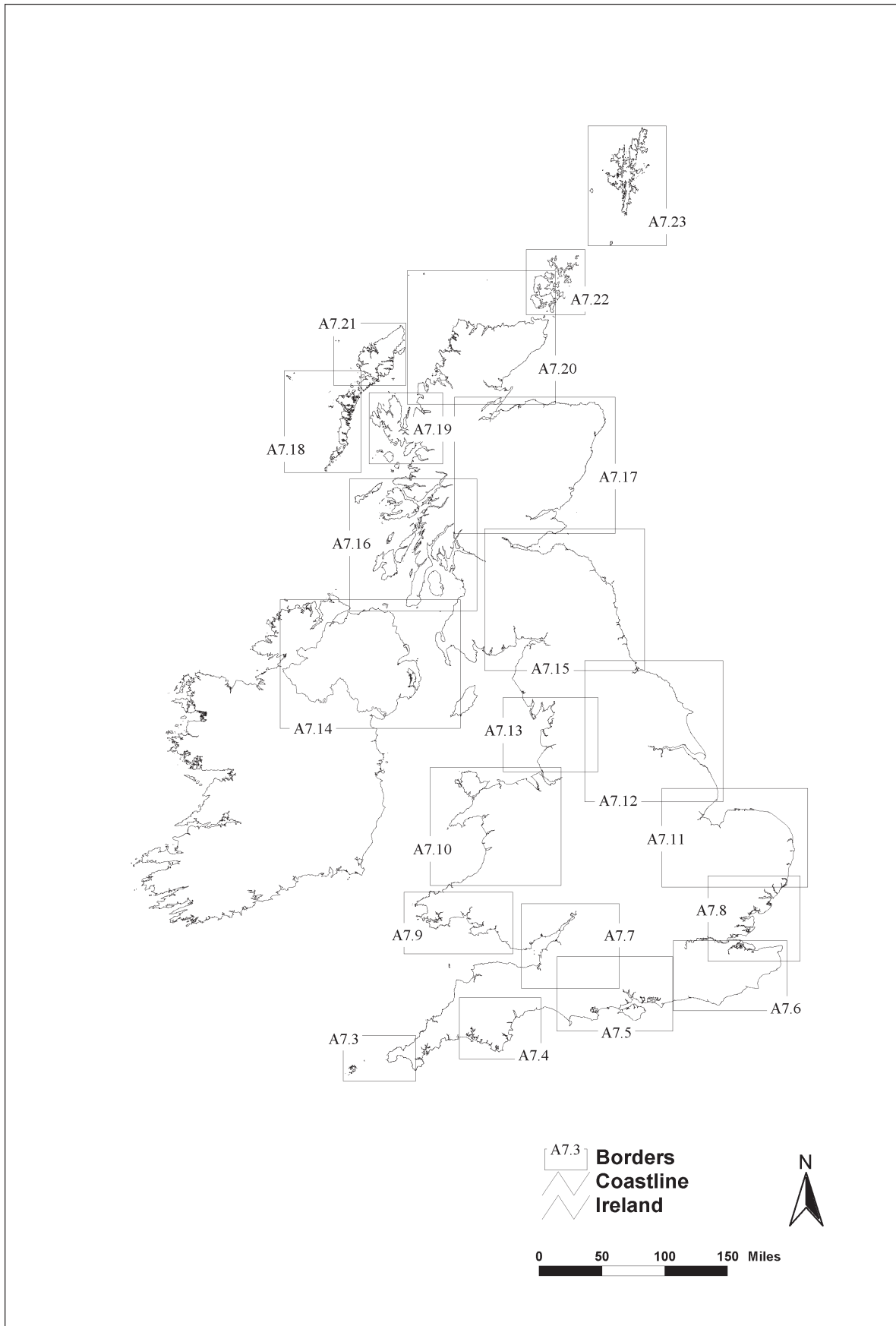
The distribution of the overall UK SPA network is shown in Figure A7.1. Figure A7.2 shows the location of regional maps in more detail. Figures A7.3–A7.23 show actual boundaries for classified SPAs or, for those sites still to be classified, a circle indicates the approximate size of the proposed SPA. Table A7.1 gives the numbers allocated to each SPA in the regional maps.

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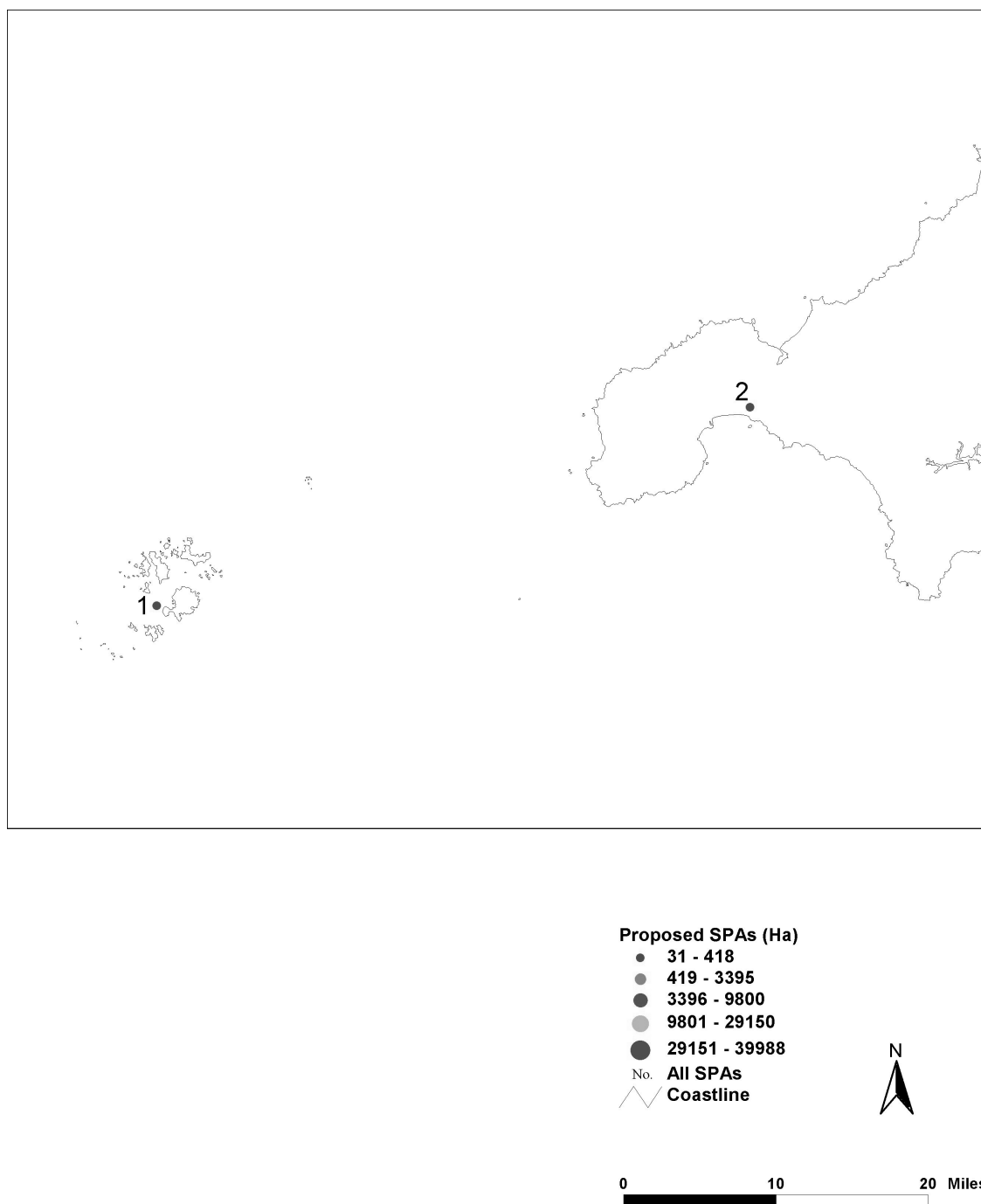
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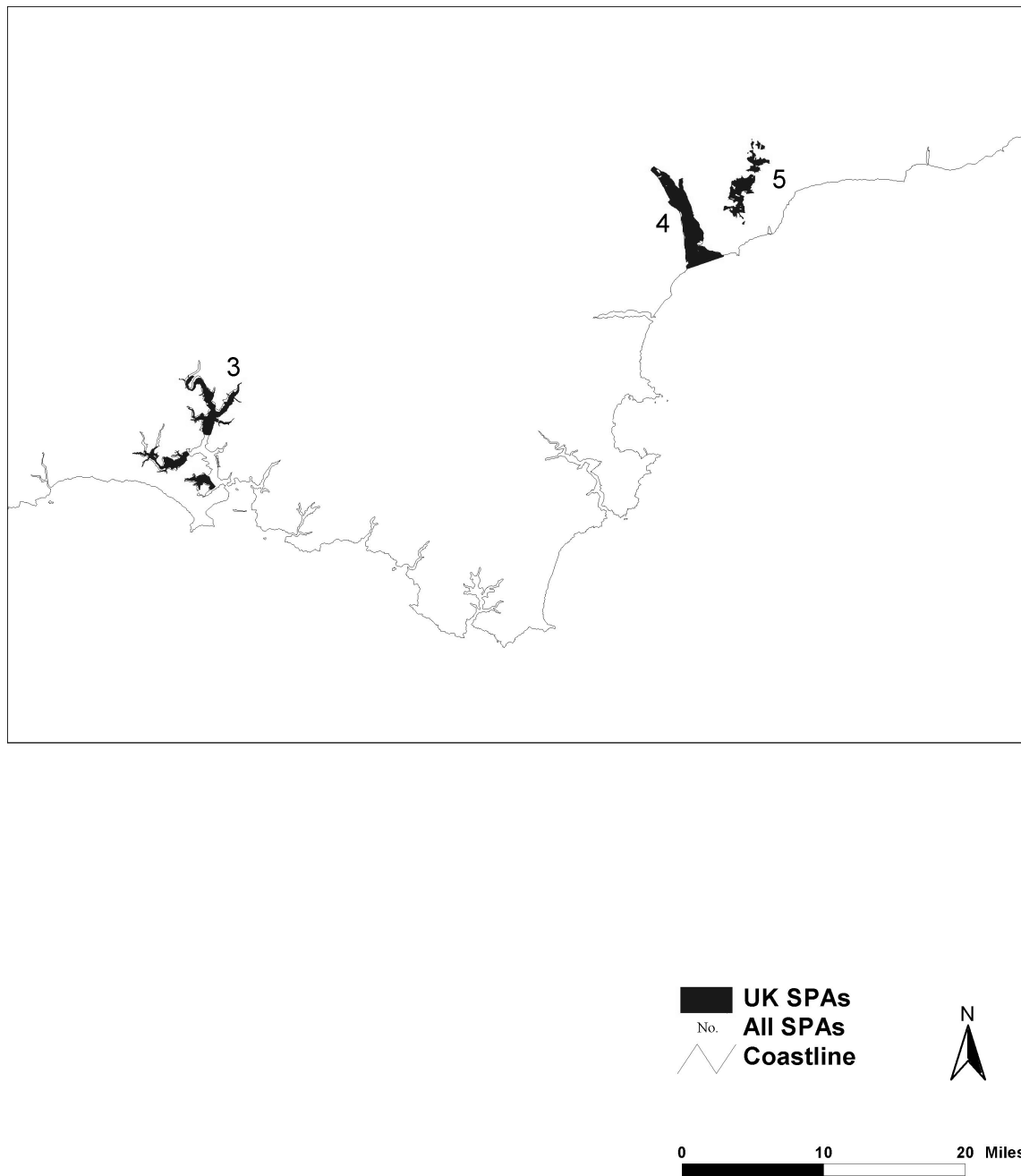
**Figure A7.1** Distribution of all UK Special Protection Areas.



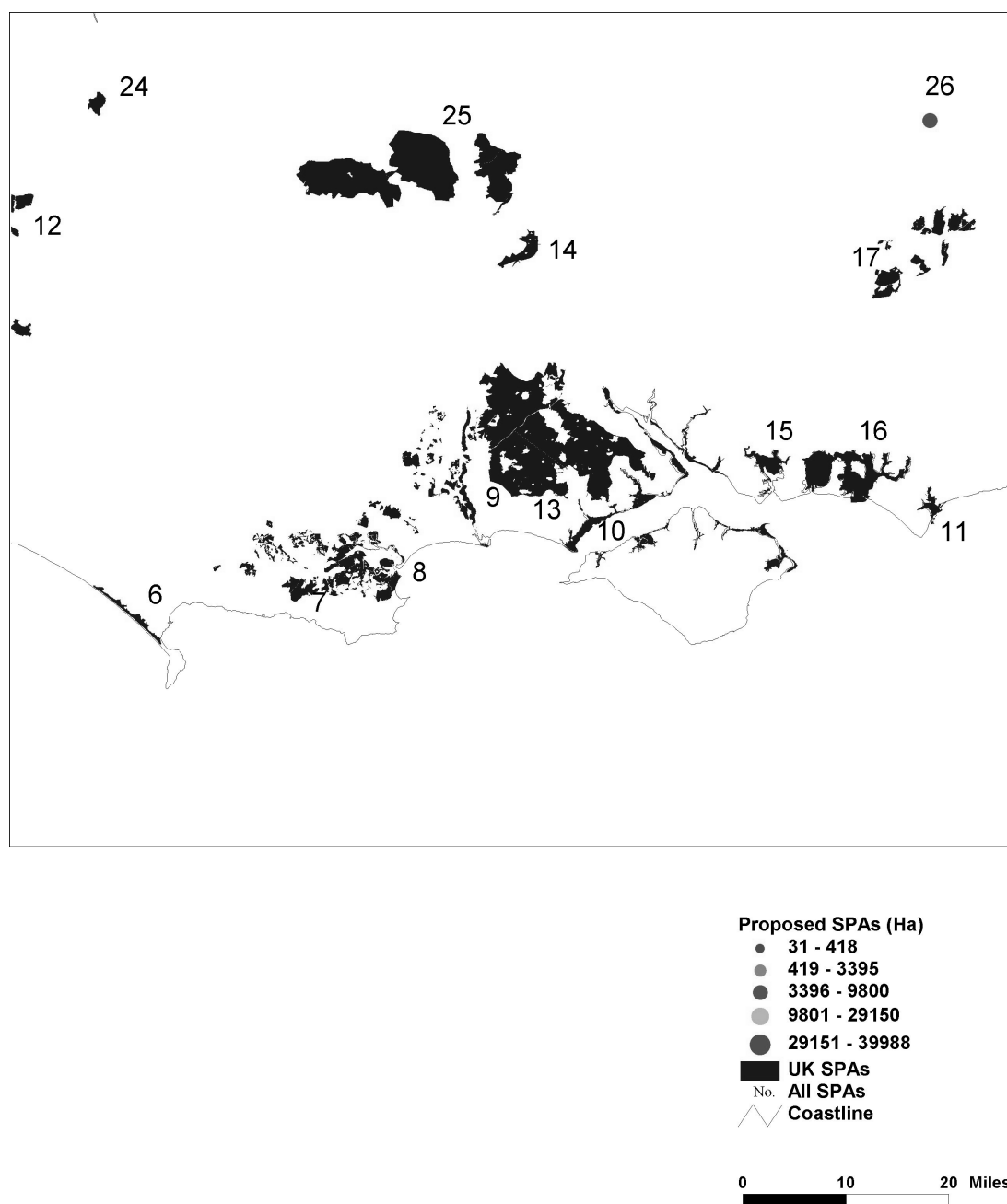
**Figure A7.2** Location of regional maps (Figures A7.3–A7.23) that show the locations and extent of Special Protection Areas in the UK.



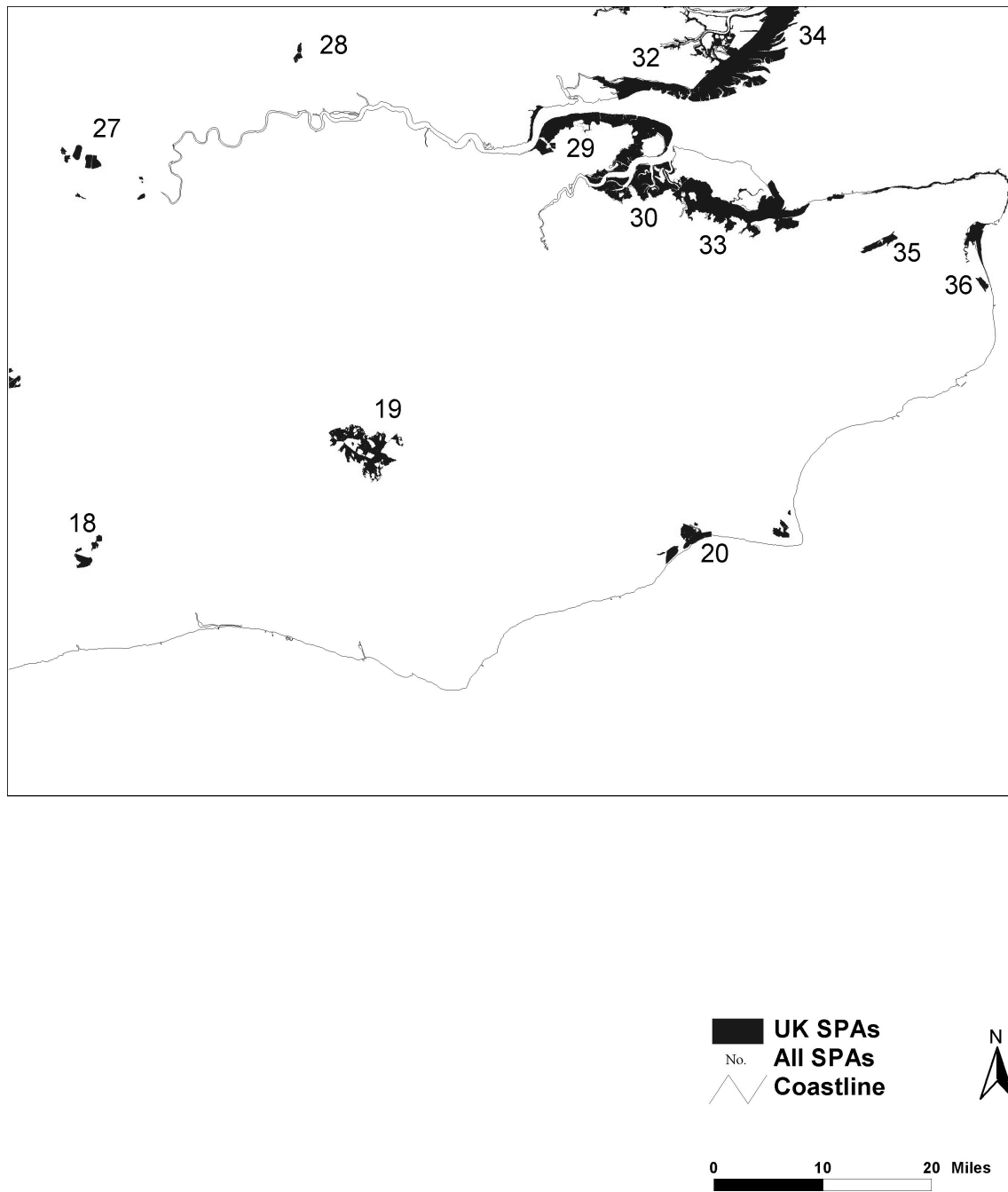
**Figure A7.3** Distribution of Special Protection Areas in the Isles of Scilly and west Cornwall. Where definitive areas are not yet available for sites, these have been estimated in categories shown in the key. Site codes are given in Table A7.1.



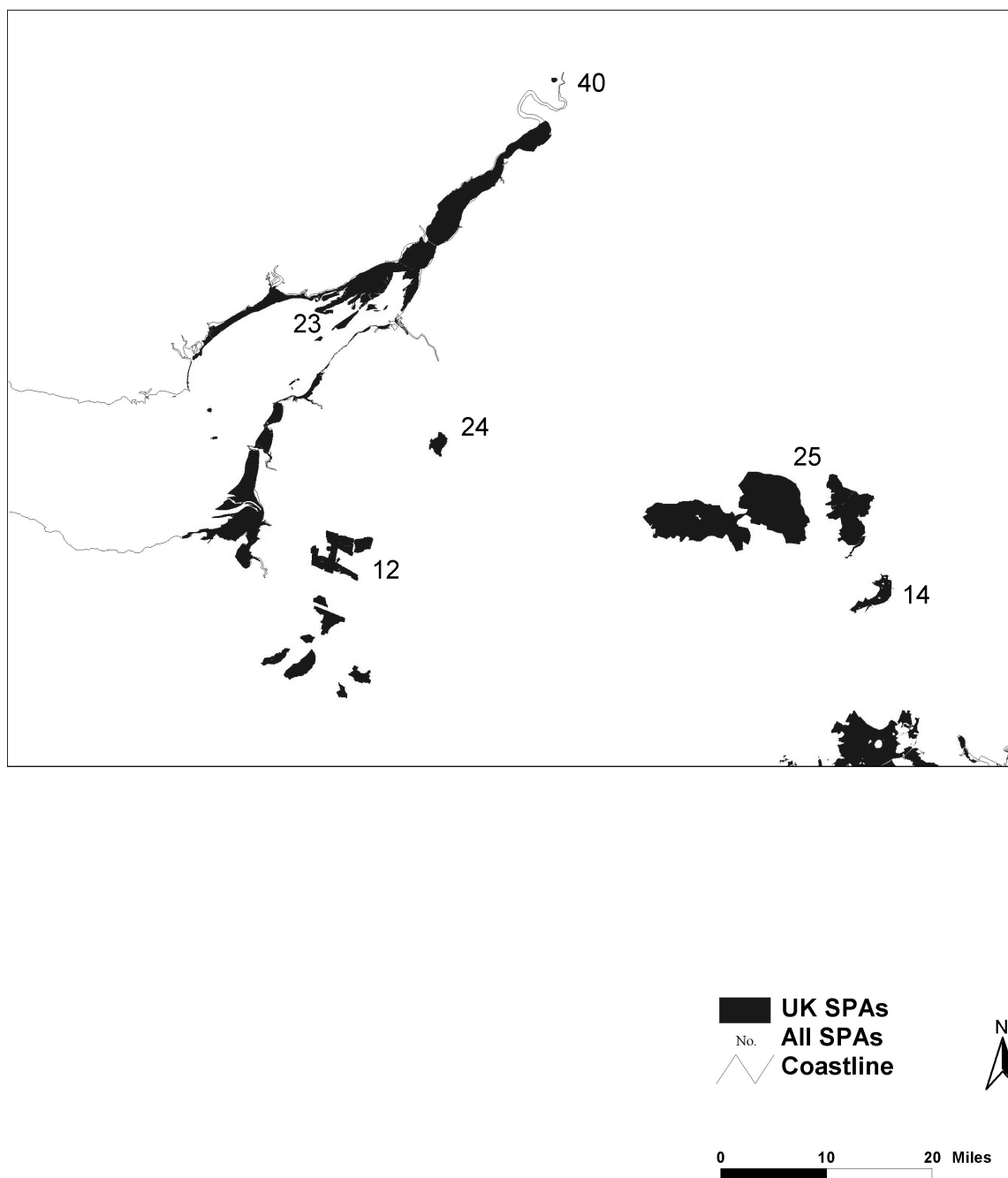
**Figure A7.4** Distribution of Special Protection Areas in east Cornwall and Devon. Site codes are given in Table A7.1.



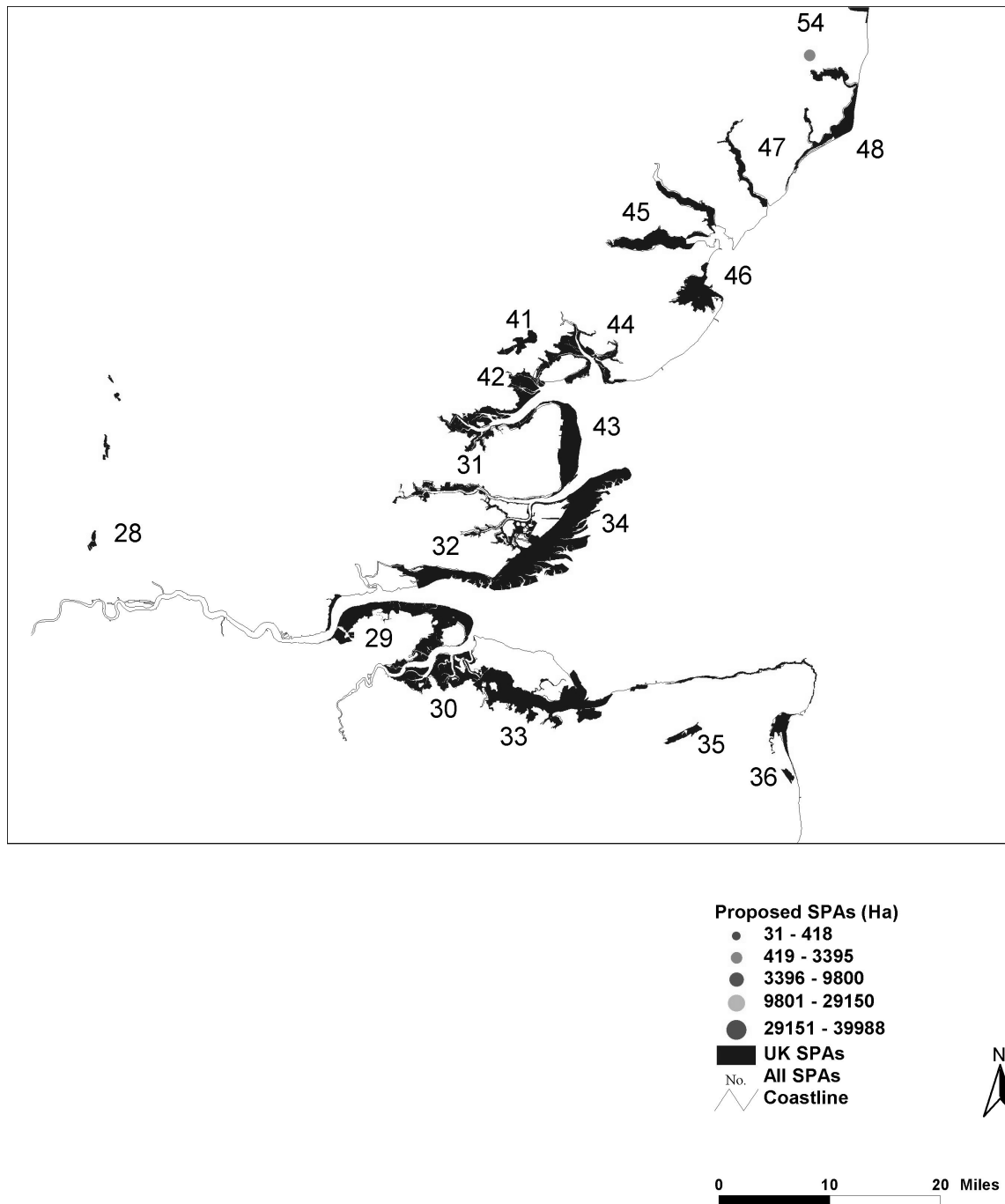
**Figure A7.5** Distribution of Special Protection Areas in the south of England. Where definitive areas are not yet available for sites, these have been estimated in categories shown in the key. Site codes are given in Table A7.1.



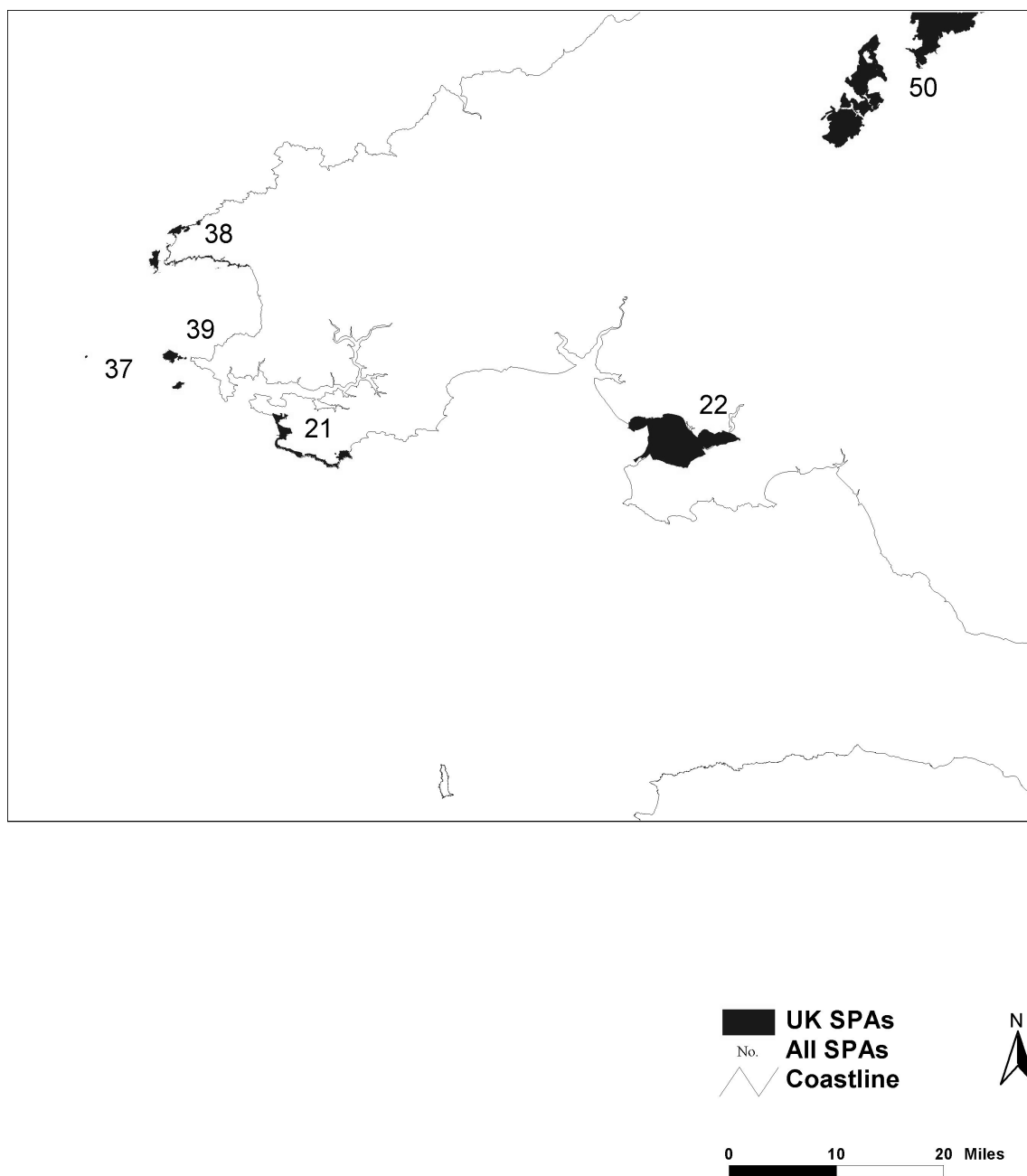
**Figure A7.6** Distribution of Special Protection Areas in the south-east of England. Site codes are given in Table A7.1.



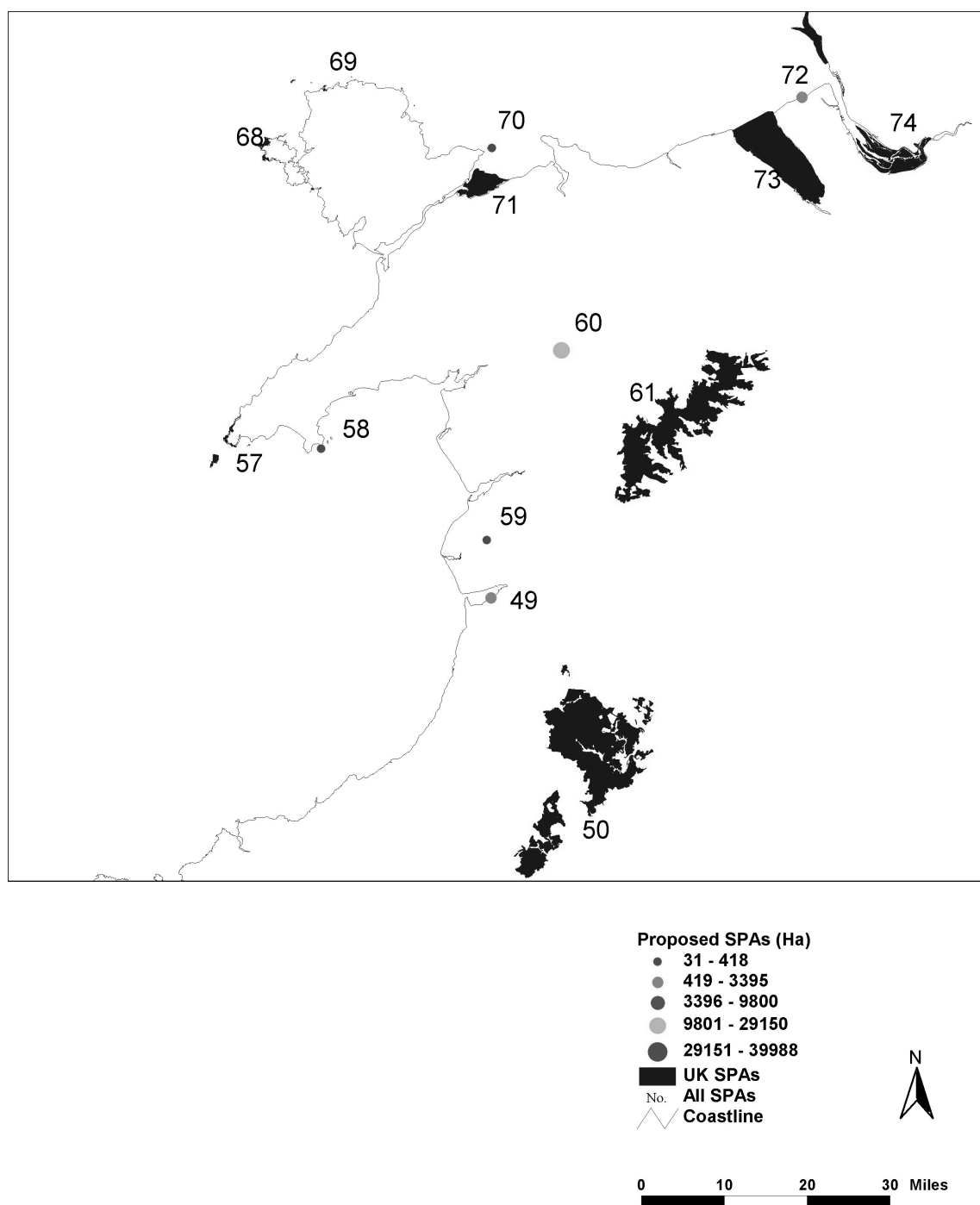
**Figure A7.7** Distribution of Special Protection Areas in south Wales, Gloucestershire, Somerset and Wiltshire. Site codes are given in Table A7.1.



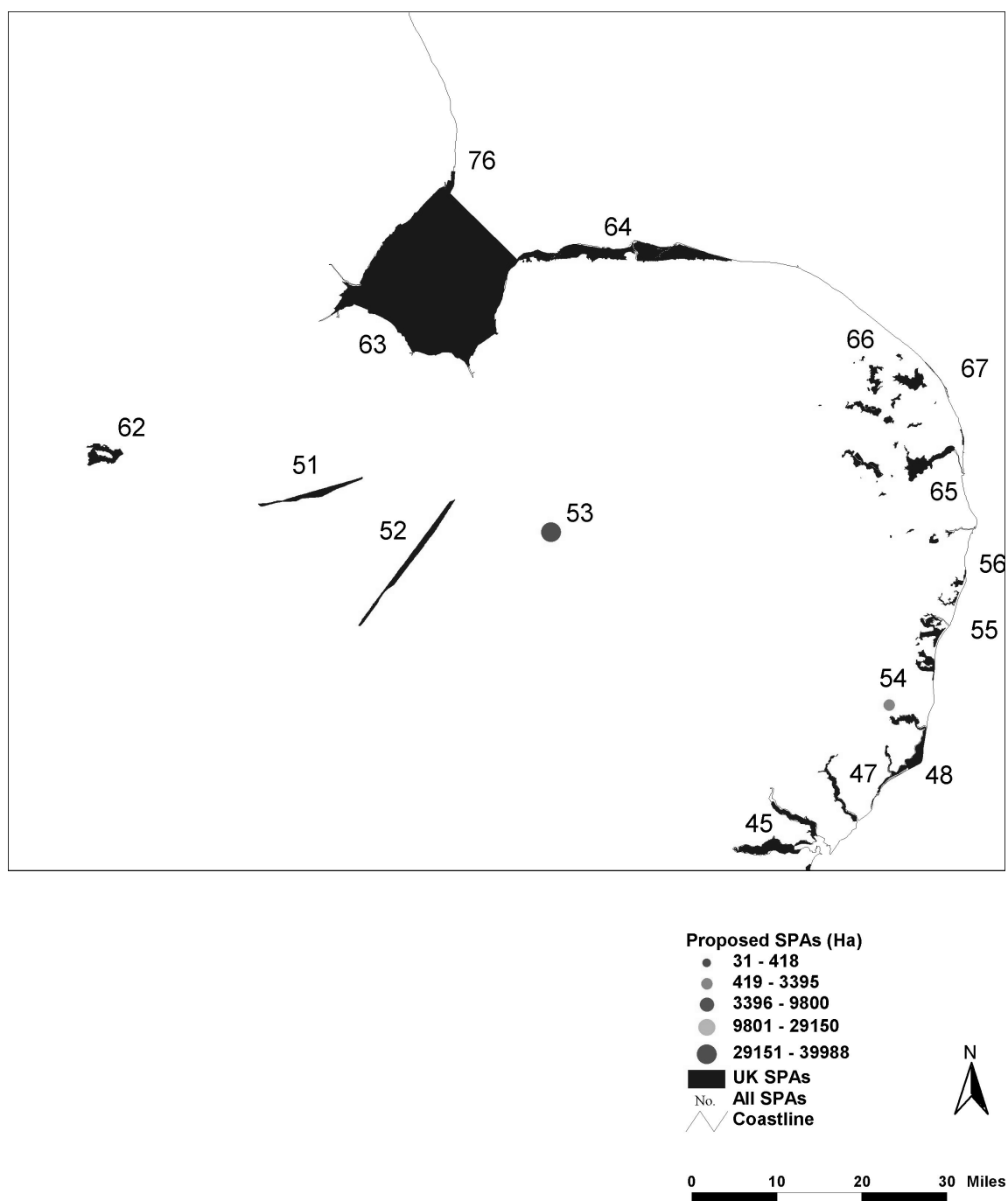
**Figure A7.8** Distribution of Special Protection Areas in Kent, Essex and Suffolk. Where definitive areas are not yet available for sites, these have been estimated in categories shown in the key. Site codes are given in Table A7.1.



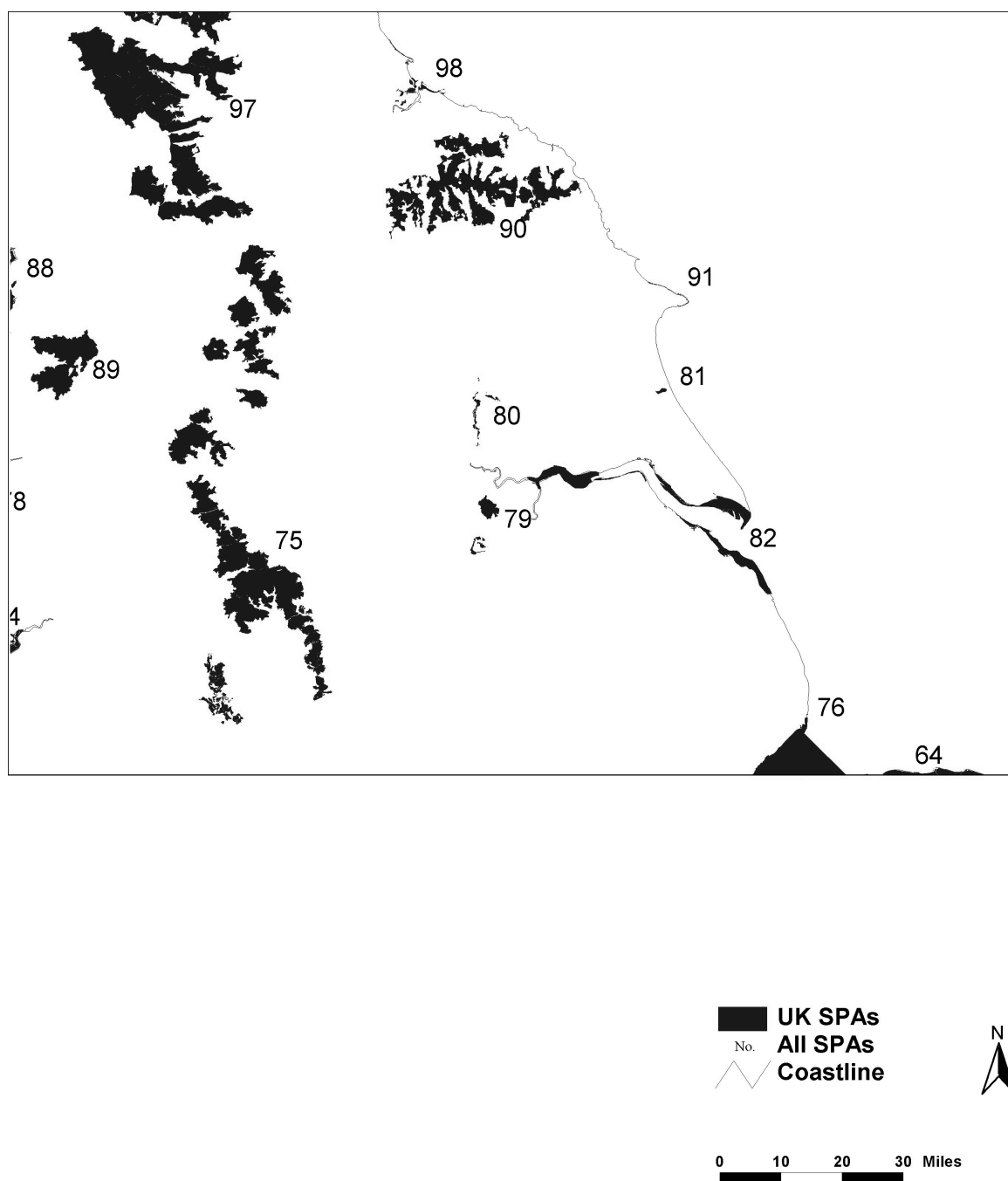
**Figure A7.9** Distribution of Special Protection Areas in south-west Wales. Site codes are given in Table A7.1.



**Figure A7.10** Distribution of Special Protection Areas in central and north Wales. Where definitive areas are not yet available for sites, these have been estimated in categories shown in the key. Site codes are given in Table A7.1.



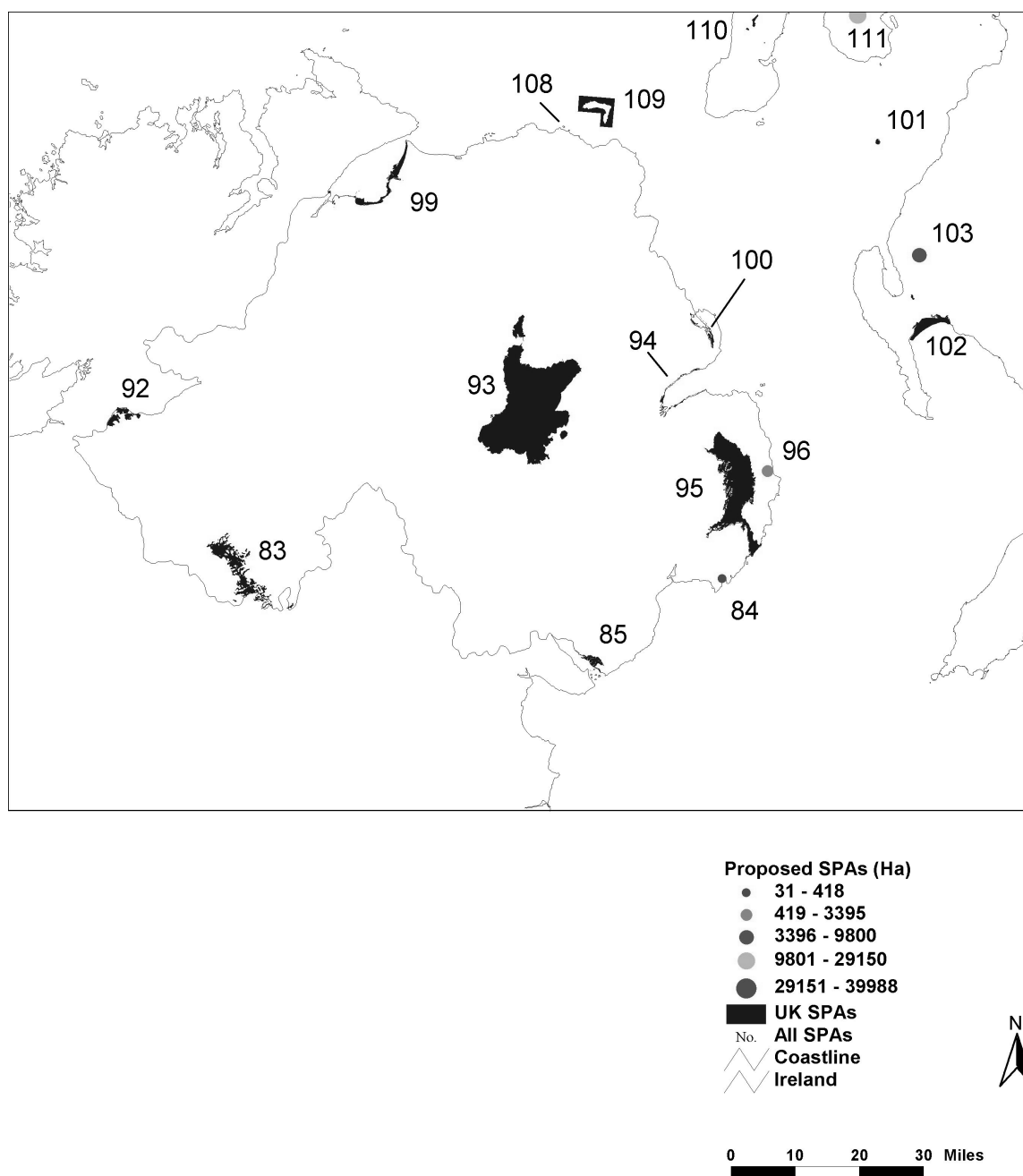
**Figure A7.11** Distribution of Special Protection Areas in the east of England. Where definitive areas are not yet available for sites, these have been estimated in categories shown in the key. Site codes are given in Table A7.1.



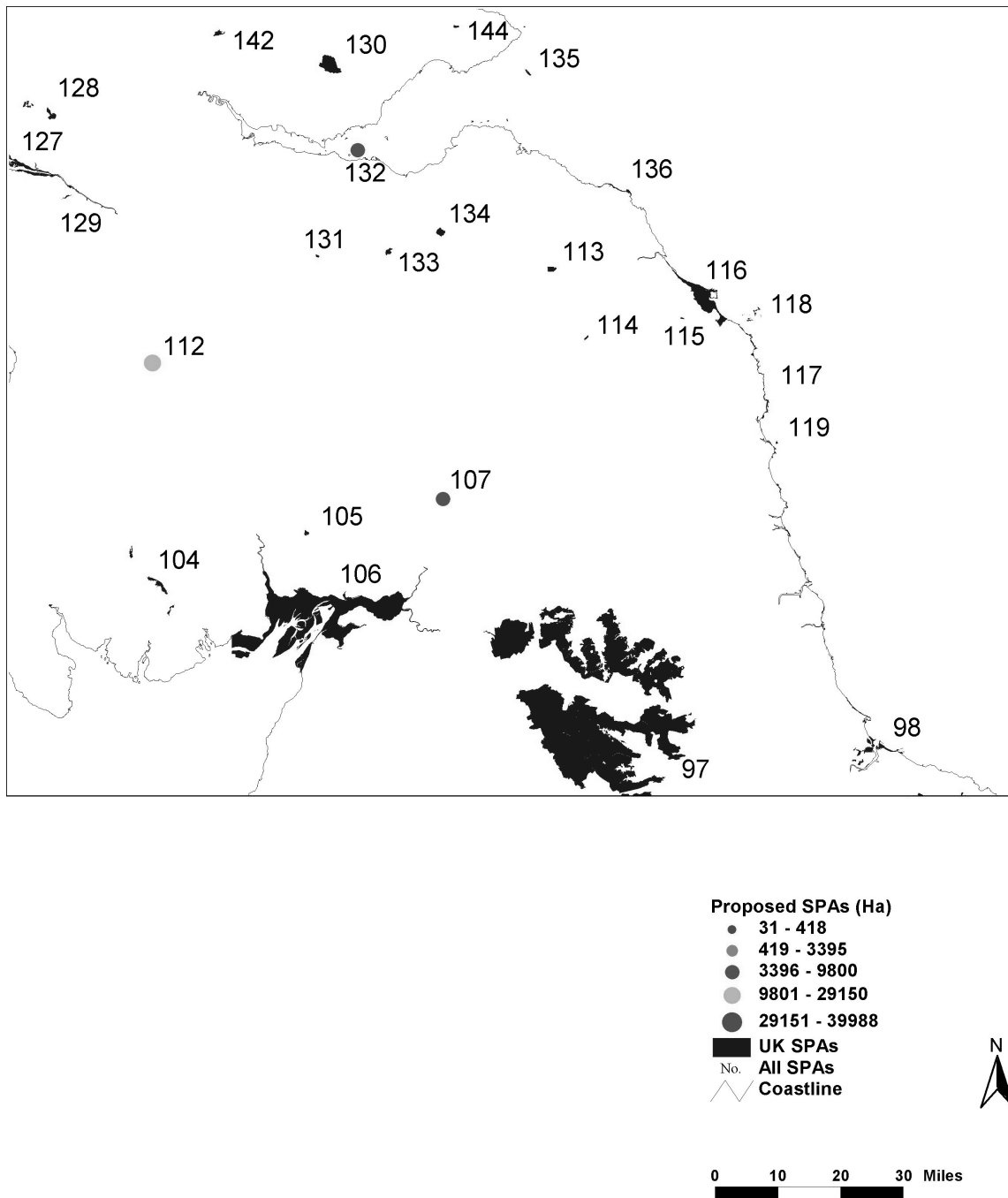
**Figure A7.12** Distribution of Special Protection Areas in north-east England. Site codes are given in Table A7.1.



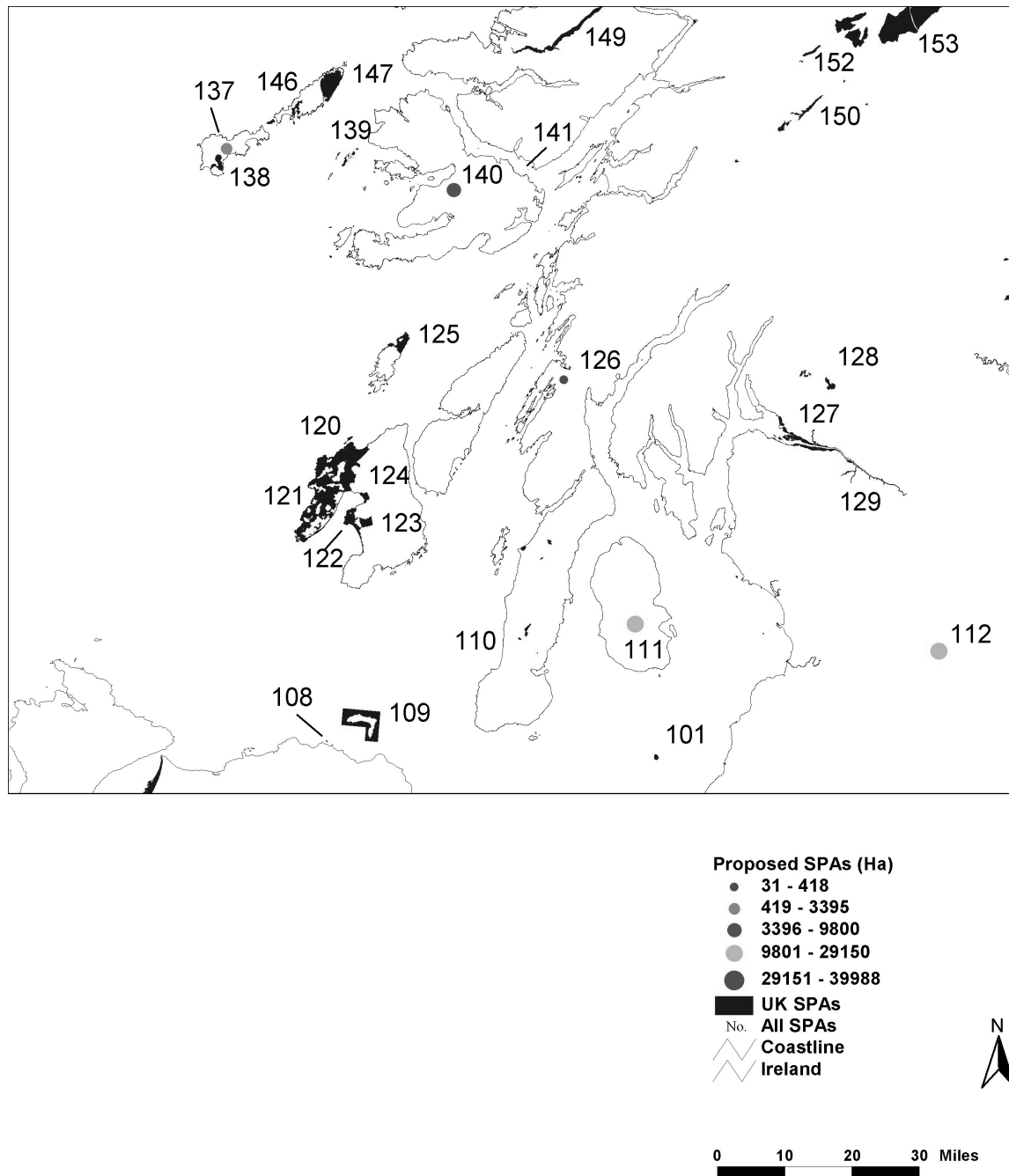
**Figure A7.13** Distribution of Special Protection Areas in north-west England. Where definitive areas are not yet available for sites, these have been estimated in categories shown in the key. Site codes are given in Table A7.1.



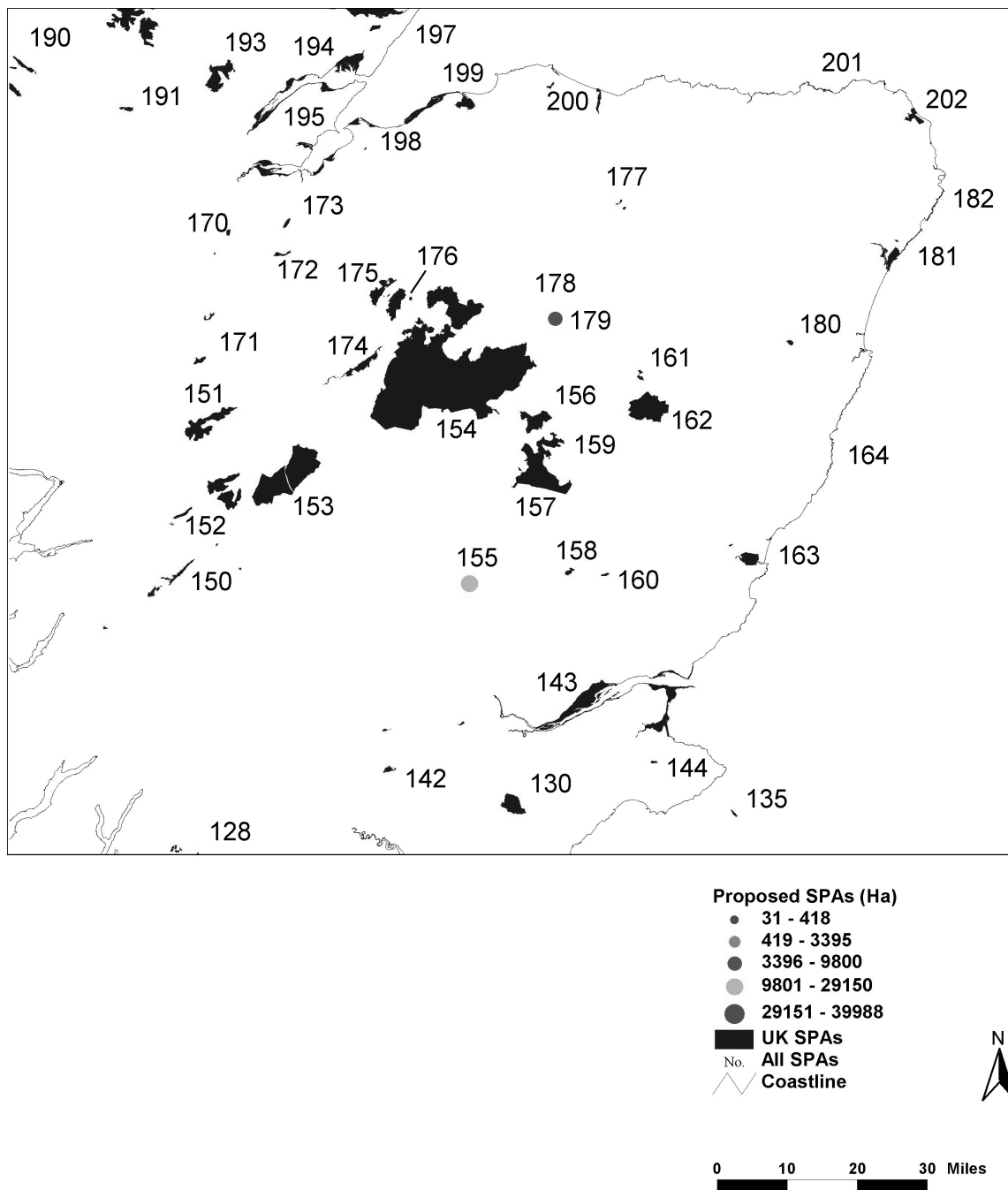
**Figure A7.14** Distribution of Special Protection Areas in Northern Ireland. Where definitive areas are not yet available for sites, these have been estimated in categories shown in the key. Site codes are given in Table A7.1.



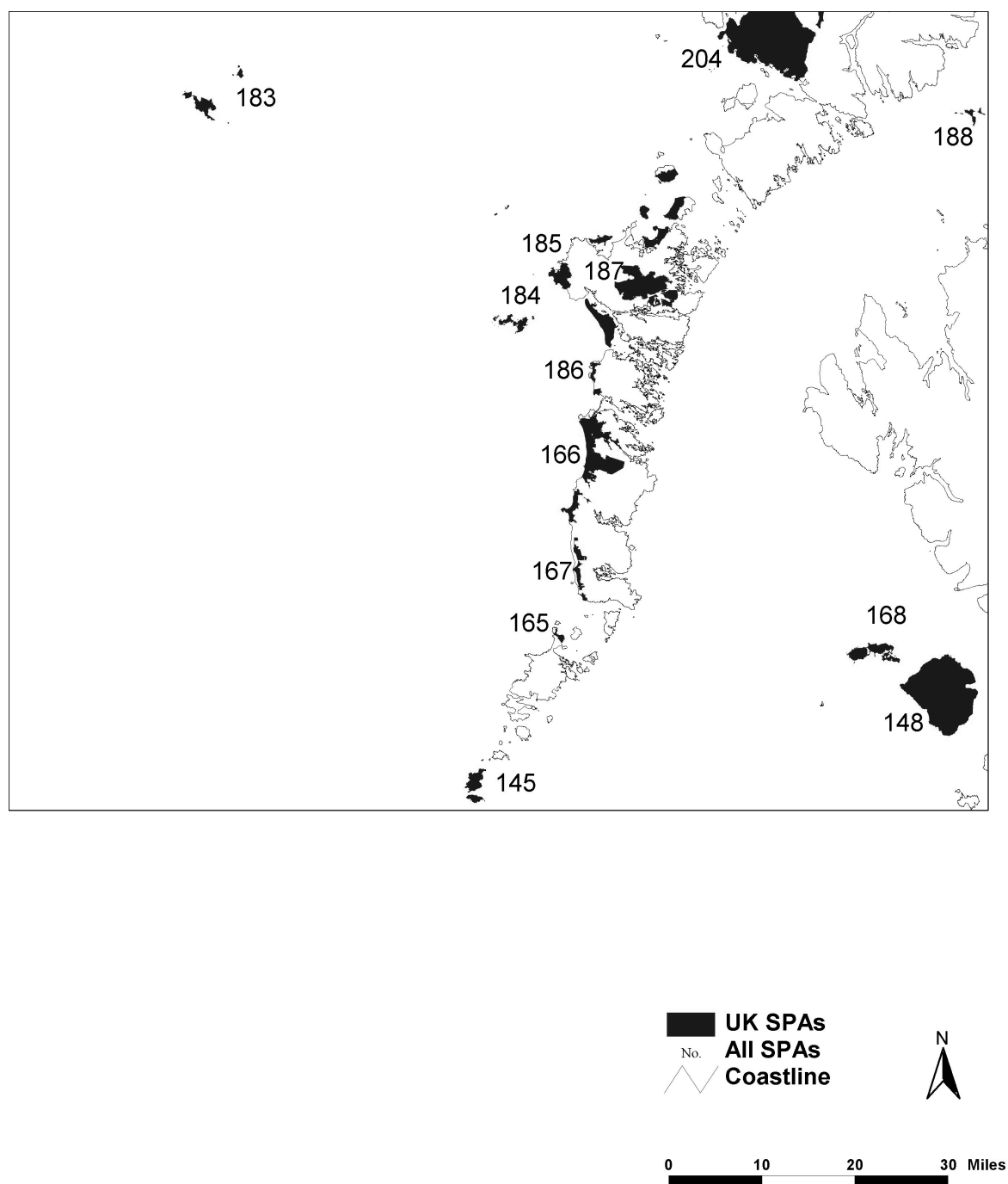
**Figure A7.15** Distribution of Special Protection Areas in northern England and southern Scotland. Where definitive areas are not yet available for sites, these have been estimated in categories shown in the key. Site codes are given in Table A7.1.



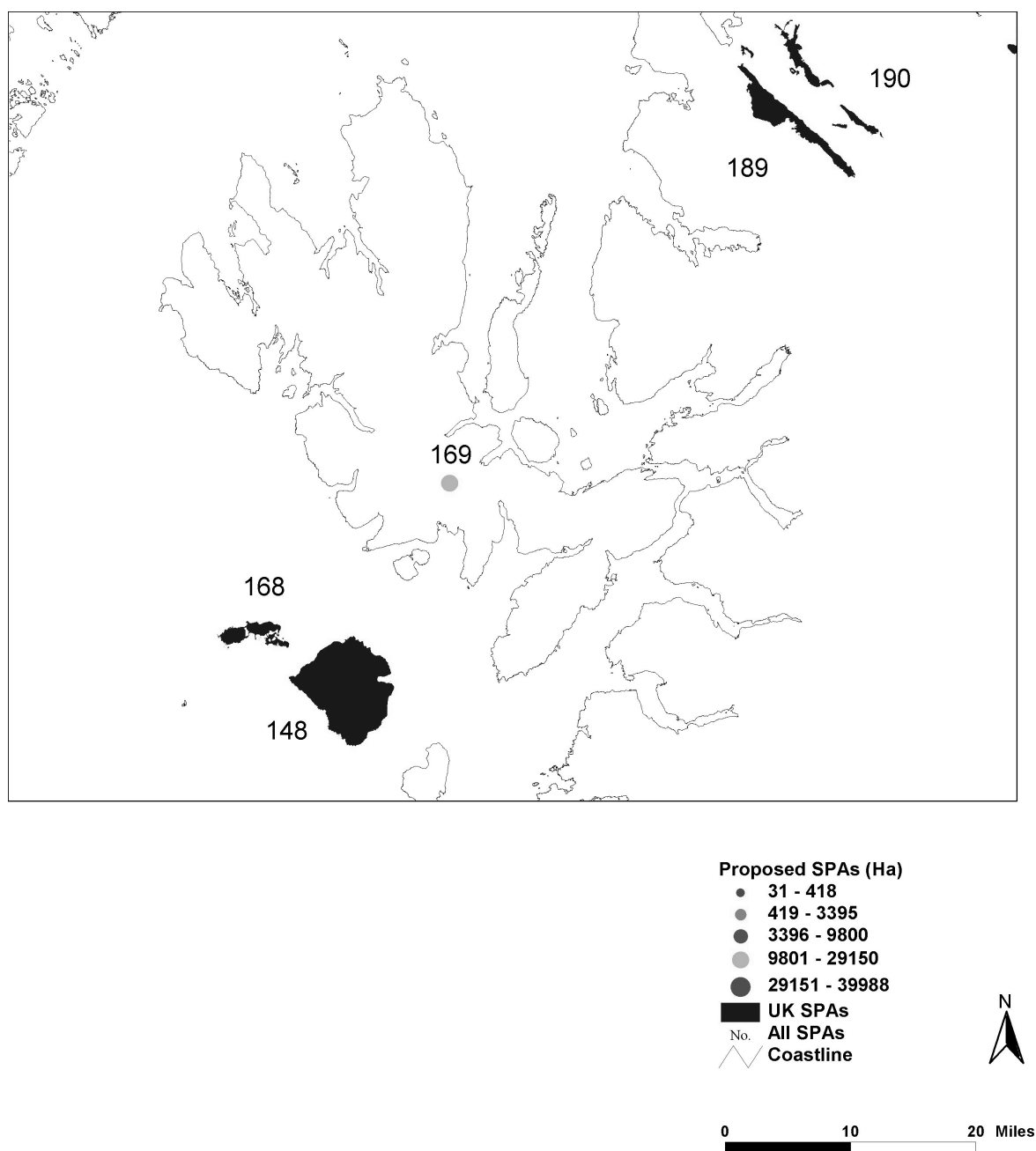
**Figure A7.16** Distribution of Special Protection Areas in south-west Scotland. Where definitive areas are not yet available for sites, these have been estimated in categories shown in the key. Site codes are given in Table A7.1.



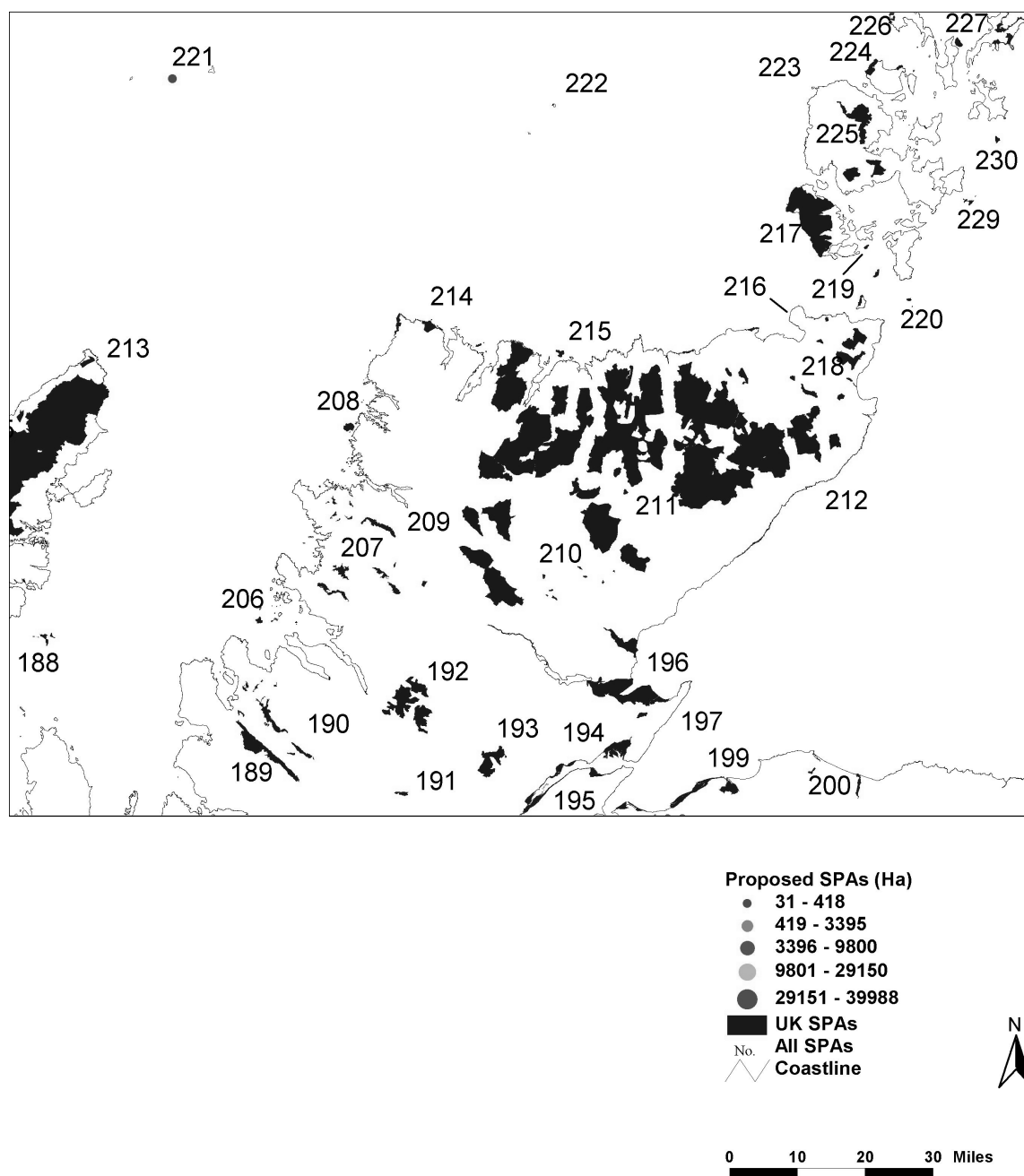
**Figure A7.17** Distribution of Special Protection Areas in eastern Scotland. Where definitive areas are not yet available for sites, these have been estimated in categories shown in the key. Site codes are given in Table A7.1.



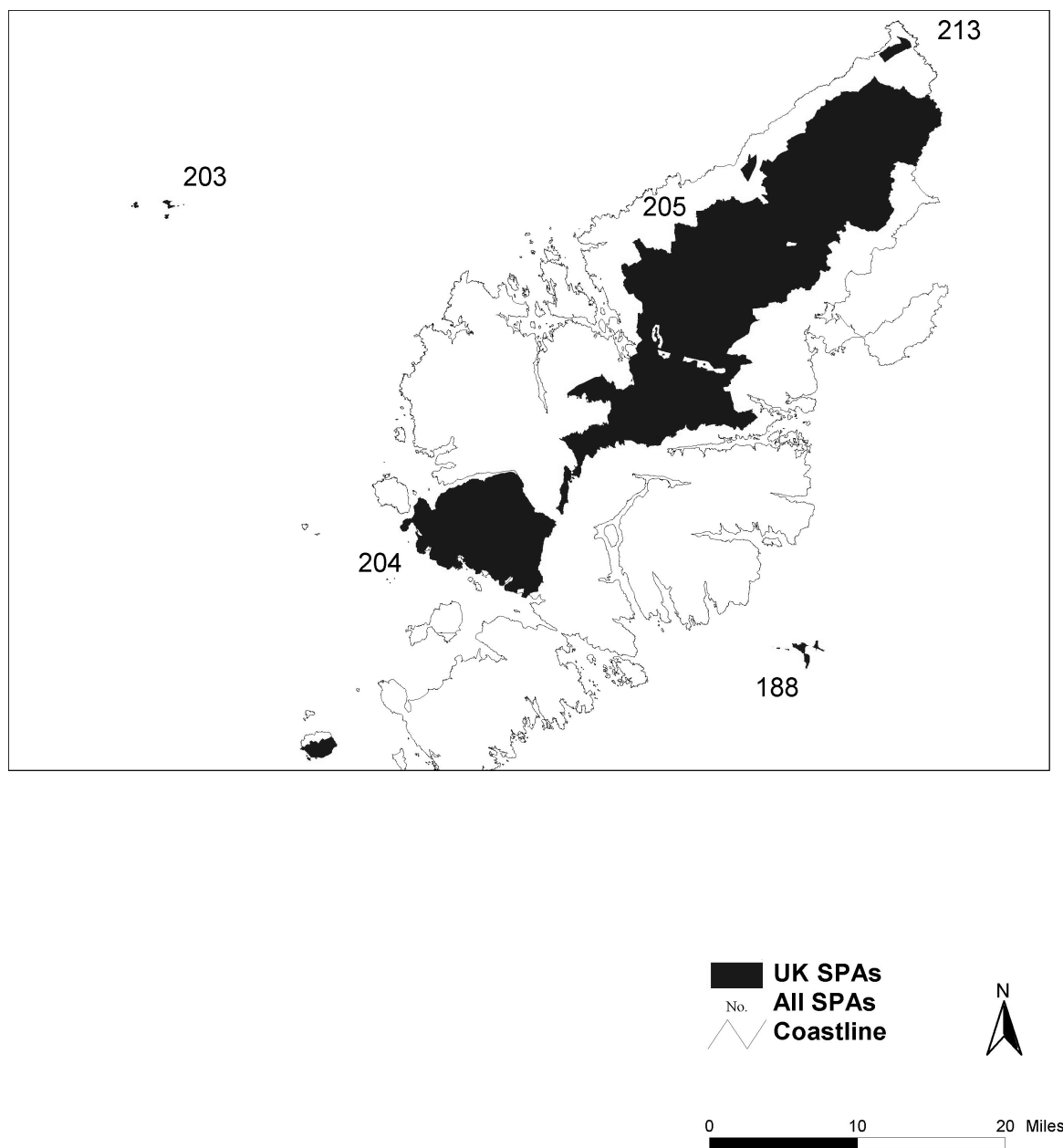
**Figure A7.18** Distribution of Special Protection Areas in the southern islands of the Outer Hebrides (Western Isles). Site codes are given in Table A7.1.



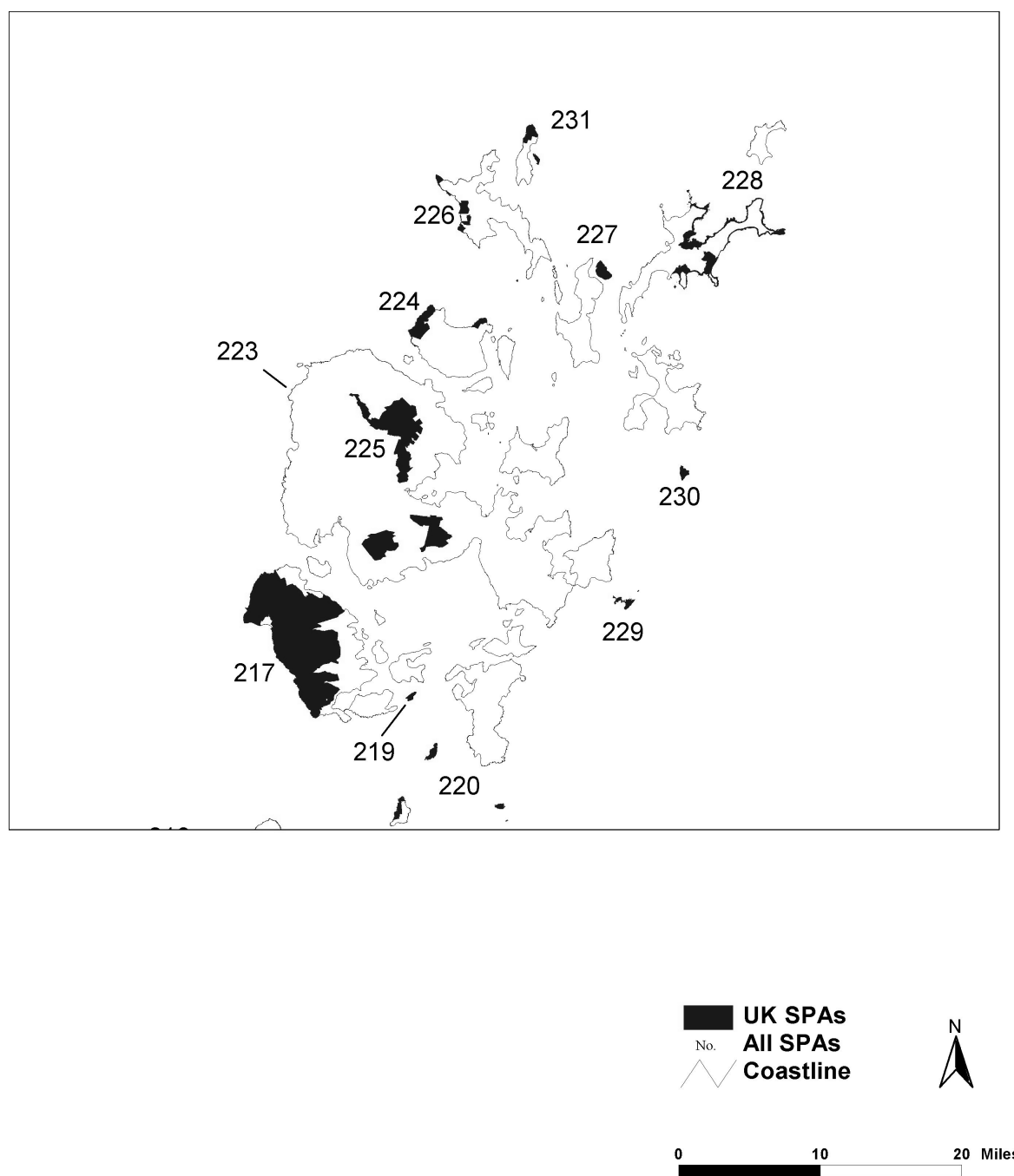
**Figure A7.19** Distribution of Special Protection Areas in western Scotland. Where definitive areas are not yet available for sites, these have been estimated in categories shown in the key. Site codes are given in Table A7.1.



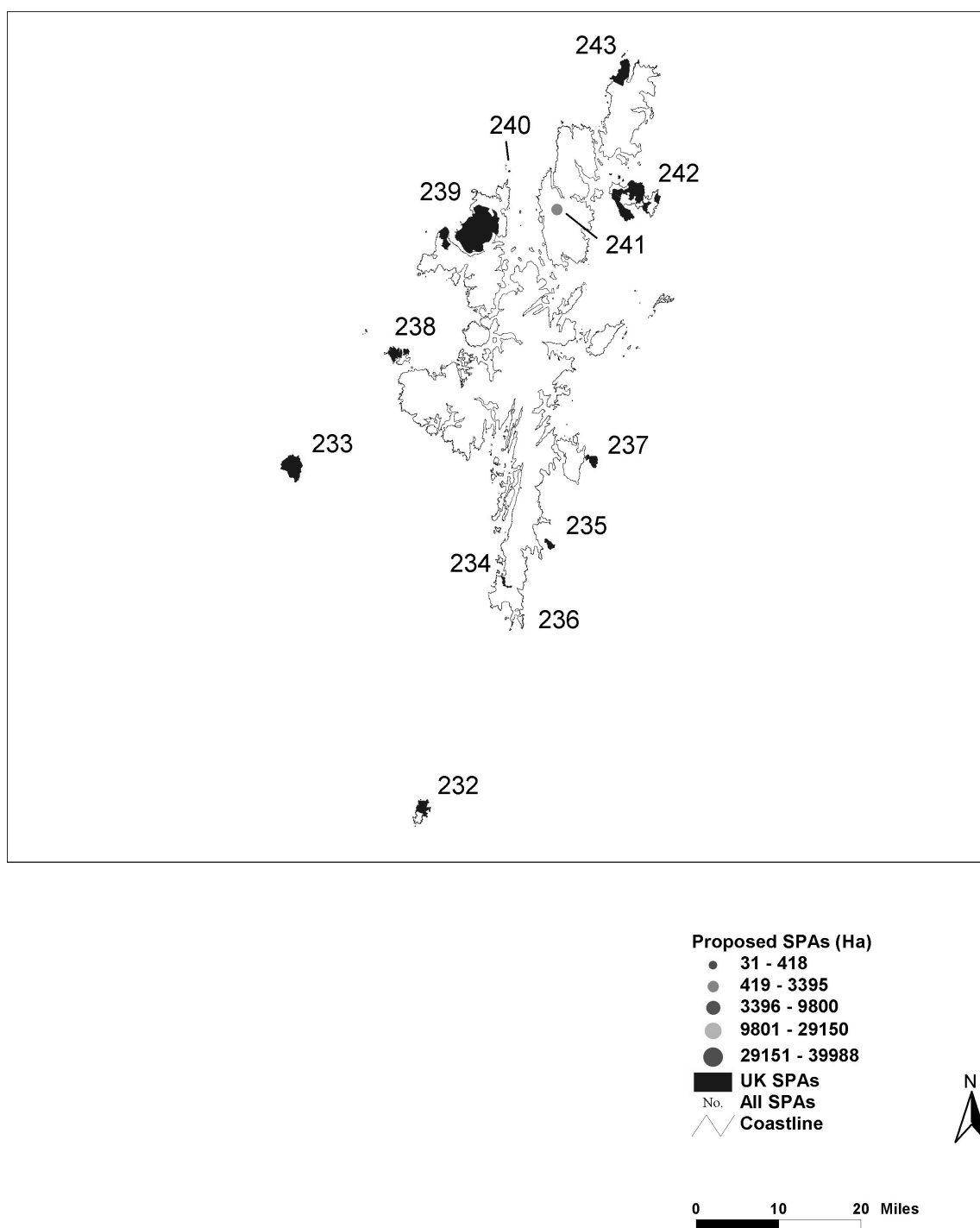
**Figure A7.20** Distribution of Special Protection Areas in northern Scotland. Where definitive areas are not yet available for sites, these have been estimated in categories shown in the key. Site codes are given in Table A7.1.



**Figure A7.21** Distribution of Special Protection Areas in the northern islands of the Outer Hebrides (Western Isles). Site codes are given in Table A7.1.



**Figure A7.22** Distribution of Special Protection Areas in the Orkney Islands. Site codes are given in Table A7.1.



**Figure A7.23** Distribution of Special Protection Areas in the Shetland Islands. Where definitive areas are not yet available for sites, these have been estimated in categories shown in the key. Site codes are given in Table A7.1.

## A7.2 Site lists

**Table A7.1** Names and EU site codes of SPAs in the UK SPA network. The order number relates also to identifying numbers shown in Figures A7.3–A7.23.

Map code	Name	EU SPA Code	Country
1	Isles of Scilly	UK9020288	England
2	Marazion Marsh	UK9020289	England
3	Tamar Estuaries Complex	UK9010141	England
4	Exe Estuary	UK9010081	England
5	East Devon Heaths	UK9010121	England
6	Chesil Beach and The Fleet	UK9010091	England
7	Dorset Heathlands	UK9010101	England
8	Poole Harbour	UK9010111	England
9	Avon Valley	UK9011091	England
10	Solent and Southampton Water	UK9011061	England
11	Pagham Harbour	UK9012041	England
12	Somerset Levels and Moors	UK9010031	England
13	New Forest	UK9011031	England
14	Porton Down	UK9011101	England
15	Portsmouth Harbour	UK9011051	England
16	Chichester and Langstone Harbours	UK9011011	England
17	Wealden Heaths (Phases 1 and 2) <sup>1</sup>	UK9012131	England
18	Arun Valley	UK9020281	England
19	Ashdown Forest	UK9012181	England
20	Dungeness to Pett Level	UK9012091	England
21	Castlemartin Coast	UK9014061	Wales
22	Burry Inlet	UK9015011	Wales
23	Severn Estuary	UK9015022	England/Wales
24	Chew Valley Lake	UK9010041	England
25	Salisbury Plain	UK9011102	England
26	Thames Basin Heaths	UK9012141	England
27	South West London Waterbodies	UK9012171	England
28	Lee Valley	UK9012111	England
29	Thames Estuary and Marshes	UK9012021	England
30	Medway Estuary and Marshes	UK9012031	England
31	Crouch and Roach Estuaries (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 3)	UK9009244	England
32	Benfleet and Southend Marshes	UK9009171	England
33	The Swale	UK9012011	England
34	Foulness (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 5)	UK9009246	England
35	Stodmarsh	UK9012121	England

<sup>1</sup> Wealden Heaths (Phases 1 and 2) comprises the legal entities of Thursley, Hankley and Frensham Commons (Wealden Heaths Phase 1) and Wealden Heaths Phase 2.

Map code	Name	EU SPA Code	Country
36	Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay	UK9012071	England
37	Grassholm	UK9014041	Wales
38	Ramsey and St David's Peninsula Coast	UK9014062	Wales
39	Skokholm and Skomer	UK9014051	Wales
40	Walmore Common	UK9007051	England
41	Abberton Reservoir	UK9009141	England
42	Blackwater Estuary (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 4)	UK9009245	England
43	Dengie (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 1)	UK9009242	England
44	Colne Estuary (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 2)	UK9009243	England
45	Stour and Orwell Estuaries	UK9009121	England
46	Hamford Water	UK9009131	England
47	Deben Estuary	UK9009261	England
48	Alde – Ore Estuary	UK9009112	England
49	Dyfi Estuary/Aber Dyfi	UK9020284	Wales
50	Elenydd – Mallaen	UK9014111	Wales
51	Nene Washes	UK9008031	England
52	Ouse Washes	UK9008041	England
53	Breckland	UK9009201	England
54	Sandlings	UK9020286	England
55	Minsmere – Walberswick	UK9009101	England
56	Benacre to Easton Bavents	UK9009291	England
57	Glannau Aberdaron and Ynys Enlli/Aberdaron Coast and Bardsey Island	UK9013121	Wales
58	Mynydd Cilan, Trwyn y Wylfa ac Ynysoedd Sant Tudwal/Mynydd Cilan, Trwyn y Wylfa and the St Tudwal Islands	UK9020282	Wales
59	Craig yr Aderyn (Bird's Rock)	UK9020283	Wales
60	Migneint – Dduallt	UK9013131	Wales
61	Berwyn	UK9013111	Wales
62	Rutland Water	UK9008051	England
63	The Wash	UK9008021	England
64	North Norfolk Coast	UK9009031	England
65	Breydon Water	UK9009181	England
66	Broadland	UK9009253	England
67	Great Yarmouth North Denes	UK9009271	England
68	Glannau Ynys Gybi/Holy Island Coast	UK9013101	Wales
69	Ynys Feurig, Cemlyn Bay and The Skerries	UK9013061	Wales
70	Ynys Seiriol/Puffin Island	UK9020285	Wales
71	Traeth Lafan/Lavan Sands, Conway Bay	UK9013031	Wales
72	Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore	UK9020287	England
73	The Dee Estuary	UK9013011	England/Wales
74	Mersey Estuary	UK9005131	England

Map code	Name	EU SPA Code	Country
75	South Pennine Moors (Phases 1 and 2) <sup>2</sup>	UK9007021	England
76	Gibraltar Point	UK9008022	England
77	Ribble and Alt Estuaries	UK9005103	England
78	Martin Mere	UK9005111	England
79	Thorne and Hatfield Moors	UK9005171	England
80	Lower Derwent Valley	UK9006092	England
81	Hornsea Mere	UK9006171	England
82	Humber Flats, Marshes and Coast (Phases 1 and 2) <sup>3</sup>	UK9006111	England
83	Upper Lough Erne	UK9020071	Northern Ireland
84	Killough Harbour	UK9020221	Northern Ireland
85	Carlingford Lough	UK9020161	Northern Ireland
86	Duddon Estuary	UK9005031	England
87	Morecambe Bay	UK9005081	England
88	Leighton Moss	UK9005091	England
89	Bowland Fells	UK9005151	England
90	North York Moors	UK9006161	England
91	Flamborough Head and Bempton Cliffs	UK9006101	England
92	Pettigoe Plateau	UK9020051	Northern Ireland
93	Lough Neagh and Lough Beg	UK9020091	Northern Ireland
94	Belfast Lough	UK9020101	Northern Ireland
95	Strangford Lough	UK9020111	Northern Ireland
96	Outer Ards	UK9020271	Northern Ireland
97	North Pennine Moors	UK9006272	England
98	Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast	UK9006061	England
99	Lough Foyle	UK9020031	Northern Ireland
100	Larne Lough	UK9020042	Northern Ireland
101	Ailsa Craig	UK9003091	Scotland
102	Loch of Inch and Torrs Warren	UK9003121	Scotland
103	Glen App – Galloway Moors	UK9003351	Scotland
104	Loch Ken and River Dee Marshes	UK9003111	Scotland
105	Castle Loch, Lochmaben	UK9003191	Scotland
106	Upper Solway Flats and Marshes	UK9005012	England/Scotland
107	Langholm – Newcastleton Hills	UK9003271	Scotland
108	Sheep Island	UK9020021	Northern Ireland
109	Rathlin Island	UK9020011	Northern Ireland
110	Kintyre Goose Roosts	UK9003071	Scotland
111	Arran Moors	UK9003341	Scotland
112	Muirkirk and North Lowther Uplands	UK9003261	Scotland
113	Greenlaw Moor	UK9004281	Scotland

<sup>2</sup> South Pennine Moors (Phases 1 and 2) comprises the legal entities of Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) and South Pennine Moors Phase 2.

<sup>3</sup> Humber Flats, Marshes and Coast (Phases 1 and 2) comprises the legal entities of Humber Flats, Marshes and Coast (Phase 1) and Humber Flats, Marshes and Coast (Phase 2).

Map code	Name	EU SPA Code	Country
114	Din Moss – Hoselaw Loch	UK9004291	Scotland
115	Holburn Lake and Moss	UK9006041	England
116	Lindisfarne	UK9006011	England
117	Northumbria Coast	UK9006131	England
118	Farne Islands	UK9006021	England
119	Coquet Island	UK9006031	England
120	Gruinart Flats, Islay	UK9003051	Scotland
121	Rinns of Islay	UK9003057	Scotland
122	Laggan, Islay	UK9003053	Scotland
123	Eilean na Muice Duibhe/Duich Moss, Islay	UK9003054	Scotland
124	Bridgend Flats, Islay	UK9003052	Scotland
125	North Colonsay and Western Cliffs	UK9003171	Scotland
126	Knapdale Lochs	UK9003301	Scotland
127	Inner Clyde Estuary	UK9003061	Scotland
128	Loch Lomond	UK9003021	Scotland
129	Black Cart	UK9003221	Scotland
130	Loch Leven	UK9004111	Scotland
131	Westwater	UK9004251	Scotland
132	Firth of Forth	UK9004411	Scotland
133	Gladhouse Reservoir	UK9004231	Scotland
134	Fala Flow	UK9004241	Scotland
135	Firth of Forth Islands	UK9004171	Scotland
136	St Abb's Head to Fast Castle	UK9004271	Scotland
137	Sleibhtean agus Cladach Thiriodh (Tiree Wetlands and Coast)	UK9003032	Scotland
138	Tiree (corncrake)	UK9003034	Scotland
139	Treshnish Isles	UK9003041	Scotland
140	Cnuic agus Cladach Mhuile (Mull Coast and Hills)	UK9003311	Scotland
141	Glas Eileanan	UK9003211	Scotland
142	South Tayside Goose Roosts	UK9004401	Scotland
143	Firth of Tay and Eden Estuary	UK9004121	Scotland
144	Cameron Reservoir	UK9004131	Scotland
145	Mingulay and Berneray	UK9001121	Scotland
146	Coll (corncrake)	UK9003033	Scotland
147	Coll	UK9003031	Scotland
148	Rum	UK9001341	Scotland
149	Loch Shiel	UK9001721	Scotland
150	Rannoch Lochs	UK9004021	Scotland
151	Creag Meagaidh	UK9002161	Scotland
152	Ben Alder	UK9002551	Scotland
153	Drumochter Hills	UK9002301	Scotland
154	Cairngorms	UK9002241	Scotland

Map code	Name	EU SPA Code	Country
155	Forest of Clunie	UK9004391	Scotland
156	Ballochbuie	UK9002781	Scotland
157	Caenlochan	UK9004011	Scotland
158	Loch of Lintrathen	UK9004061	Scotland
159	Lochnagar	UK9002281	Scotland
160	Loch of Kinnordy	UK9004051	Scotland
161	Muir of Dinnet	UK9002791	Scotland
162	Glen Tanar	UK9002771	Scotland
163	Montrose Basin	UK9004031	Scotland
164	Fowlsheugh	UK9002271	Scotland
165	Eoligarry, Barra	UK9001761	Scotland
166	South Uist Machair and Lochs	UK9001082	Scotland
167	Kilpheder to Smerclate, South Uist	UK9001083	Scotland
168	Canna and Sanday	UK9001431	Scotland
169	Cuillins	UK9001781	Scotland
170	North Inverness Lochs	UK9001553	Scotland
171	Loch Knockie and Nearby Lochs	UK9001552	Scotland
172	Loch Ruthven	UK9001551	Scotland
173	Loch Ashie	UK9001554	Scotland
174	River Spey – Insh Marshes	UK9002231	Scotland
175	Kinveachy Forest	UK9002581	Scotland
176	Loch Vaa	UK9002751	Scotland
177	Tips of Corsemaul and Tom Mor	UK9002811	Scotland
178	Abernethy Forest	UK9002561	Scotland
179	Ladder Hills	UK9002951	Scotland
180	Loch of Skene	UK9002261	Scotland
181	Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch	UK9002221	Scotland
182	Buchan Ness to Collieston Coast	UK9002491	Scotland
183	St Kilda	UK9001031	Scotland
184	Monach Isles	UK9001071	Scotland
185	North Uist Machair and Islands	UK9001051	Scotland
186	Aird and Borge, Benbecula	UK9001751	Scotland
187	Mointeach Scadabhaigh	UK9001501	Scotland
188	Shiant Isles	UK9001041	Scotland
189	Loch Maree	UK9001531	Scotland
190	Wester Ross Lochs	UK9001711	Scotland
191	Achanalt Marshes	UK9001701	Scotland
192	Beinn Dearg	UK9001631	Scotland
193	Ben Wyvis	UK9001641	Scotland
194	Cromarty Firth	UK9001623	Scotland
195	Inner Moray Firth	UK9001624	Scotland
196	Dornoch Firth and Loch Fleet	UK9001622	Scotland

Map code	Name	EU SPA Code	Country
197	Loch Eye	UK9001621	Scotland
198	Loch Flemington	UK9001691	Scotland
199	Moray and Nairn Coast	UK9001625	Scotland
200	Loch Spynie	UK9002201	Scotland
201	Troup, Pennan and Lion's Heads	UK9002471	Scotland
202	Loch of Strathbeg	UK9002211	Scotland
203	Flannan Isles	UK9001021	Scotland
204	North Harris Mountains	UK9001572	Scotland
205	Lewis Peatlands	UK9001571	Scotland
206	Priest Island (Summer Isles)	UK9001261	Scotland
207	Inverpolly, Loch Urigill and Nearby Lochs	UK9001511	Scotland
208	Handa	UK9001241	Scotland
209	Assynt Lochs	UK9001591	Scotland
210	Lairg and Strathbrora Lochs	UK9001611	Scotland
211	Caithness and Sutherland Peatlands	UK9001151	Scotland
212	East Caithness Cliffs	UK9001182	Scotland
213	Ness and Barvas, Lewis	UK9001741	Scotland
214	Cape Wrath	UK9001231	Scotland
215	North Sutherland Coastal Islands	UK9001211	Scotland
216	North Caithness Cliffs	UK9001181	Scotland
217	Hoy	UK9002141	Scotland
218	Caithness Lochs	UK9001171	Scotland
219	Switha	UK9002891	Scotland
220	Pentland Firth Islands	UK9001131	Scotland
221	North Rona and Sula Sgeir	UK9001011	Scotland
222	Sule Skerry and Sule Stack	UK9002181	Scotland
223	Marwick Head	UK9002121	Scotland
224	Rousay	UK9002371	Scotland
225	Orkney Mainland Moors	UK9002311	Scotland
226	West Westray	UK9002101	Scotland
227	Calf of Eday	UK9002431	Scotland
228	East Sanday Coast	UK9002331	Scotland
229	Copinsay	UK9002151	Scotland
230	Auskerry	UK9002381	Scotland
231	Papa Westray (North Hill and Holm)	UK9002111	Scotland
232	Fair Isle	UK9002091	Scotland
233	Foula	UK9002061	Scotland
234	Lochs of Spiggie and Brow	UK9002651	Scotland
235	Mousa	UK9002361	Scotland
236	Sumburgh Head	UK9002511	Scotland
237	Noss	UK9002081	Scotland
238	Papa Stour	UK9002051	Scotland
239	Ronas Hill – North Roe and Tingon	UK9002041	Scotland

Map code	Name	EU SPA Code	Country
240	Ramna Stacks and Gruney	UK9002021	Scotland
241	Otterswick and Graveland	UK9002941	Scotland
242	Fetlar	UK9002031	Scotland
243	Hermaness, Saxa Vord and Valla Field	UK9002011	Scotland

**Table A7.2** Names and EU site codes of SPAs in the UK SPA network in UK alphabetic sequence. The map codes are identifying numbers shown in Figures A7.3–A7.23.

Name	Map code	EU SPA Code	Country
Abberton Reservoir	41	UK9009141	England
Abernethy Forest	178	UK9002561	Scotland
Achanalt Marshes	191	UK9001701	Scotland
Ailsa Craig	101	UK9003091	Scotland
Aird and Borge, Benbecula	186	UK9001751	Scotland
Alde – Ore Estuary	48	UK9009112	England
Arran Moors	111	UK9003341	Scotland
Arun Valley	18	UK9020281	England
Ashdown Forest	19	UK9012181	England
Assynt Lochs	209	UK9001591	Scotland
Auskerry	230	UK9002381	Scotland
Avon Valley	9	UK9011091	England
Ballochbuie	156	UK9002781	Scotland
Beinn Dearg	192	UK9001631	Scotland
Belfast Lough	94	UK9020101	Northern Ireland
Ben Alder	152	UK9002551	Scotland
Ben Wyvis	193	UK9001641	Scotland
Benacre to Easton Bavents	56	UK9009291	England
Benfleet and Southend Marshes	32	UK9009171	England
Berwyn	61	UK9013111	Wales
Black Cart	129	UK9003221	Scotland
Blackwater Estuary (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 4)	42	UK9009245	England
Bowland Fells	89	UK9005151	England
Breckland	53	UK9009201	England
Breydon Water	65	UK9009181	England
Bridgend Flats, Islay	124	UK9003052	Scotland
Broadland	66	UK9009253	England
Buchan Ness to Collieston Coast	182	UK9002491	Scotland
Burry Inlet	22	UK9015011	Wales
Caenlochan	157	UK9004011	Scotland
Cairngorms	154	UK9002241	Scotland
Caithness and Sutherland Peatlands	211	UK9001151	Scotland
Caithness Lochs	218	UK9001171	Scotland
Calf of Eday	227	UK9002431	Scotland

Name	Map code	EU SPA Code	Country
Cameron Reservoir	144	UK9004131	Scotland
Canna and Sanday	168	UK9001431	Scotland
Cape Wrath	214	UK9001231	Scotland
Carlingford Lough	85	UK9020161	Northern Ireland
Castle Loch, Lochmaben	105	UK9003191	Scotland
Castlemartin Coast	21	UK9014061	Wales
Chesil Beach and The Fleet	6	UK9010091	England
Chew Valley Lake	24	UK9010041	England
Chichester and Langstone Harbours	16	UK9011011	England
Cnuic agus Cladach Mhuile (Mull Coast and Hills)	140	UK9003311	Scotland
Coll	147	UK9003031	Scotland
Coll (corncrake)	146	UK9003033	Scotland
Colne Estuary (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 2)	44	UK9009243	England
Copinsay	229	UK9002151	Scotland
Coquet Island	119	UK9006031	England
Craig yr Aderyn (Bird's Rock)	59	UK9020283	Wales
Creag Meagaidh	151	UK9002161	Scotland
Cromarty Firth	194	UK9001623	Scotland
Crouch and Roach Estuaries (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 3)	31	UK9009244	England
Cuillins	169	UK9001781	Scotland
Deben Estuary	47	UK9009261	England
Dengie (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 1)	43	UK9009242	England
Din Moss – Hoselaw Loch	114	UK9004291	Scotland
Dornoch Firth and Loch Fleet	196	UK9001622	Scotland
Dorset Heathlands	7	UK9010101	England
Drumochter Hills	153	UK9002301	Scotland
Duddon Estuary	86	UK9005031	England
Dungeness to Pett Level	20	UK9012091	England
Dyfi Estuary/Aber Dyfi	49	UK9020284	Wales
East Caithness Cliffs	212	UK9001182	Scotland
East Devon Heaths	5	UK9010121	England
East Sanday Coast	228	UK9002331	Scotland
Eilean na Muice Duibhe/Duich Moss, Islay	123	UK9003054	Scotland
Elenydd – Mallaen	50	UK9014111	Wales
Eoligarry, Barra	165	UK9001761	Scotland
Exe Estuary	4	UK9010081	England
Fair Isle	232	UK9002091	Scotland
Fala Flow	134	UK9004241	Scotland
Farne Islands	118	UK9006021	England
Fetlar	242	UK9002031	Scotland
Firth of Forth	132	UK9004411	Scotland

Name	Map code	EU SPA Code	Country
Firth of Forth Islands	135	UK9004171	Scotland
Firth of Tay and Eden Estuary	143	UK9004121	Scotland
Flamborough Head and Bempton Cliffs	91	UK9006101	England
Flannan Isles	203	UK9001021	Scotland
Forest of Clunie	155	UK9004391	Scotland
Foula	233	UK9002061	Scotland
Foulness (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 5)	34	UK9009246	England
Fowlsheugh	164	UK9002271	Scotland
Gibraltar Point	76	UK9008022	England
Gladhouse Reservoir	133	UK9004231	Scotland
Glannau Aberdaron and Ynys Enlli/Aberdaron Coast and Bardsey Island	57	UK9013121	Wales
Glannau Ynys Gybi/Holy Island Coast	68	UK9013101	Wales
Glas Eileanan	141	UK9003211	Scotland
Glen App – Galloway Moors	103	UK9003351	Scotland
Glen Tanar	162	UK9002771	Scotland
Grassholm	37	UK9014041	Wales
Great Yarmouth North Denes	67	UK9009271	England
Greenlaw Moor	113	UK9004281	Scotland
Gruinart Flats, Islay	120	UK9003051	Scotland
Hamford Water	46	UK9009131	England
Handa	208	UK9001241	Scotland
Hermaness, Saxa Vord and Valla Field	243	UK9002011	Scotland
Holburn Lake and Moss	115	UK9006041	England
Hornsea Mere	81	UK9006171	England
Hoy	217	UK9002141	Scotland
Humber Flats, Marshes and Coast (Phases 1 and 2)	82	UK9006111	England
Inner Clyde Estuary	127	UK9003061	Scotland
Inner Moray Firth	195	UK9001624	Scotland
Inverpolly, Loch Urigill and Nearby Lochs	207	UK9001511	Scotland
Isles of Scilly	1	UK9020288	England
Killough Harbour	84	UK9020221	Northern Ireland
Kilpheder to Smerclate, South Uist	167	UK9001083	Scotland
Kintyre Goose Roosts	110	UK9003071	Scotland
Kinveachy Forest	175	UK9002581	Scotland
Knapdale Lochs	126	UK9003301	Scotland
Ladder Hills	179	UK9002951	Scotland
Laggan, Islay	122	UK9003053	Scotland
Lairg and Strathbrora Lochs	210	UK9001611	Scotland
Langholm – Newcastleton Hills	107	UK9003271	Scotland
Larne Lough	100	UK9020042	Northern Ireland
Lee Valley	28	UK9012111	England

Name	Map code	EU SPA Code	Country
Leighton Moss	88	UK9005091	England
Lewis Peatlands	205	UK9001571	Scotland
Lindisfarne	116	UK9006011	England
Loch Ashie	173	UK9001554	Scotland
Loch Eye	197	UK9001621	Scotland
Loch Flemington	198	UK9001691	Scotland
Loch Ken and River Dee Marshes	104	UK9003111	Scotland
Loch Knockie and Nearby Lochs	171	UK9001552	Scotland
Loch Leven	130	UK9004111	Scotland
Loch Lomond	128	UK9003021	Scotland
Loch Maree	189	UK9001531	Scotland
Loch of Inch and Torrs Warren	102	UK9003121	Scotland
Loch of Kinnordy	160	UK9004051	Scotland
Loch of Lintrathen	158	UK9004061	Scotland
Loch of Skene	180	UK9002261	Scotland
Loch of Strathbeg	202	UK9002211	Scotland
Loch Ruthven	172	UK9001551	Scotland
Loch Shiel	149	UK9001721	Scotland
Loch Spynie	200	UK9002201	Scotland
Loch Vaa	176	UK9002751	Scotland
Lochnagar	159	UK9002281	Scotland
Lochs of Spiggie and Brow	234	UK9002651	Scotland
Lough Foyle	99	UK9020031	Northern Ireland
Lough Neagh and Lough Beg	93	UK9020091	Northern Ireland
Lower Derwent Valley	80	UK9006092	England
Marazion Marsh	2	UK9020289	England
Martin Mere	78	UK9005111	England
Marwick Head	223	UK9002121	Scotland
Medway Estuary and Marshes	30	UK9012031	England
Mersey Estuary	74	UK9005131	England
Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore	72	UK9020287	England
Migneint – Dduallt	60	UK9013131	Wales
Mingulay and Berneray	145	UK9001121	Scotland
Minsmere – Walberswick	55	UK9009101	England
Mointeach Scadabhaigh	187	UK9001501	Scotland
Monach Isles	184	UK9001071	Scotland
Montrose Basin	163	UK9004031	Scotland
Moray and Nairn Coast	199	UK9001625	Scotland
Morecambe Bay	87	UK9005081	England
Mousa	235	UK9002361	Scotland
Muir of Dinnet	161	UK9002791	Scotland
Muirkirk and North Lowther Uplands	112	UK9003261	Scotland

Name	Map code	EU SPA Code	Country
Mynydd Cilan, Trwyn y Wylfa ac Ynysoedd Sant Tudwal/Mynydd Cilan, Trwyn y Wylfa and the St Tudwal Islands	58	UK9020282	Wales
Nene Washes	51	UK9008031	England
Ness and Barvas, Lewis	213	UK9001741	Scotland
New Forest	13	UK9011031	England
North Caithness Cliffs	216	UK9001181	Scotland
North Colonsay and Western Cliffs	125	UK9003171	Scotland
North Harris Mountains	204	UK9001572	Scotland
North Inverness Lochs	170	UK9001553	Scotland
North Norfolk Coast	64	UK9009031	England
North Pennine Moors	97	UK9006272	England
North Rona and Sula Sgeir	221	UK9001011	Scotland
North Sutherland Coastal Islands	215	UK9001211	Scotland
North Uist Machair and Islands	185	UK9001051	Scotland
North York Moors	90	UK9006161	England
Northumbria Coast	117	UK9006131	England
Noss	237	UK9002081	Scotland
Orkney Mainland Moors	225	UK9002311	Scotland
Otterswick and Graveland	241	UK9002941	Scotland
Ouse Washes	52	UK9008041	England
Outer Ards	96	UK9020271	Northern Ireland
Pagham Harbour	11	UK9012041	England
Papa Stour	238	UK9002051	Scotland
Papa Westray (North Hill and Holm)	231	UK9002111	Scotland
Pentland Firth Islands	220	UK9001131	Scotland
Pettigoe Plateau	92	UK9020051	Northern Ireland
Poole Harbour	8	UK9010111	England
Porton Down	14	UK9011101	England
Portsmouth Harbour	15	UK9011051	England
Priest Island (Summer Isles)	206	UK9001261	Scotland
Ramna Stacks and Gruney	240	UK9002021	Scotland
Ramsey and St David's Peninsula Coast	38	UK9014062	Wales
Rannoch Lochs	150	UK9004021	Scotland
Rathlin Island	109	UK9020011	Northern Ireland
Ribble and Alt Estuaries	77	UK9005103	England
Rinns of Islay	121	UK9003057	Scotland
River Spey – Insh Marshes	174	UK9002231	Scotland
Ronas Hill – North Roe and Tingon	239	UK9002041	Scotland
Rousay	224	UK9002371	Scotland
Rum	148	UK9001341	Scotland
Rutland Water	62	UK9008051	England
Salisbury Plain	25	UK9011102	England

Name	Map code	EU SPA Code	Country
Sandlings	54	UK9020286	England
Severn Estuary	23	UK9015022	England/Wales
Sheep Island	108	UK9020021	Northern Ireland
Shiant Isles	188	UK9001041	Scotland
Skokholm and Skomer	39	UK9014051	Wales
Sleibhtean agus Cladach Thiriodh (Tiree Wetlands and Coast)	137	UK9003032	Scotland
Solent and Southampton Water	10	UK9011061	England
Somerset Levels and Moors	12	UK9010031	England
South Pennine Moors (Phases 1 and 2)	75	UK9007021	England
South Tayside Goose Roosts	142	UK9004401	Scotland
South Uist Machair and Lochs	166	UK9001082	Scotland
South West London Waterbodies	27	UK9012171	England
St Abb's Head to Fast Castle	136	UK9004271	Scotland
St Kilda	183	UK9001031	Scotland
Stodmarsh	35	UK9012121	England
Stour and Orwell Estuaries	45	UK9009121	England
Strangford Lough	95	UK9020111	Northern Ireland
Sule Skerry and Sule Stack	222	UK9002181	Scotland
Sumburgh Head	236	UK9002511	Scotland
Switha	219	UK9002891	Scotland
Tamar Estuaries Complex	3	UK9010141	England
Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast	98	UK9006061	England
Thames Basin Heaths	26	UK9012141	England
Thames Estuary and Marshes	29	UK9012021	England
Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay	36	UK9012071	England
The Dee Estuary	73	UK9013011	England/Wales
The Swale	33	UK9012011	England
The Wash	63	UK9008021	England
Thorne and Hatfield Moors	79	UK9005171	England
Tips of Corsemaul and Tom Mor	177	UK9002811	Scotland
Tiree (corncrake)	138	UK9003034	Scotland
Traeth Lafan/Lavan Sands, Conway Bay	71	UK9013031	Wales
Treshnish Isles	139	UK9003041	Scotland
Troup, Pennan and Lion's Heads	201	UK9002471	Scotland
Upper Lough Erne	83	UK9020071	Northern Ireland
Upper Solway Flats and Marshes	106	UK9005012	England/Scotland
Walmore Common	40	UK9007051	England
Wealden Heaths (Phases 1 and 2)	17	UK9012131	England
West Westray	226	UK9002101	Scotland
Wester Ross Lochs	190	UK9001711	Scotland
Westwater	131	UK9004251	Scotland
Ynys Feurig, Cemlyn Bay and The Skerries	69	UK9013061	Wales

Name	Map code	EU SPA Code	Country
Ynys Seiriol/Puffin Island	70	UK9020285	Wales
Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch	181	UK9002221	Scotland

**Table A7.3** Names and EU site codes of SPAs in the UK SPA network in country alphabetic sequences. The map codes are identifying numbers shown in Figures A7.3–A7.23.

Name	Map code	EU SPA Code	Country
<b>NORTHERN IRELAND</b>			
Belfast Lough	94	UK9020101	Northern Ireland
Carlingford Lough	85	UK9020161	Northern Ireland
Killough Harbour	84	UK9020221	Northern Ireland
Larne Lough	100	UK9020042	Northern Ireland
Lough Foyle	99	UK9020031	Northern Ireland
Lough Neagh and Lough Beg	93	UK9020091	Northern Ireland
Outer Ards	96	UK9020271	Northern Ireland
Pettigoe Plateau	92	UK9020051	Northern Ireland
Rathlin Island	109	UK9020011	Northern Ireland
Sheep Island	108	UK9020021	Northern Ireland
Strangford Lough	95	UK9020111	Northern Ireland
Upper Lough Erne	83	UK9020071	Northern Ireland
<b>WALES</b>			
Berwyn	61	UK9013111	Wales
Burry Inlet	22	UK9015011	Wales
Castlemartin Coast	21	UK9014061	Wales
Craig yr Aderyn (Bird's Rock)	59	UK9020283	Wales
Dyfi Estuary/Aber Dyfi	49	UK9020284	Wales
Elenydd – Mallaen	50	UK9014111	Wales
Glannau Aberdaron and Ynys Enlli/Aberdaron Coast and Bardsey Island	57	UK9013121	Wales
Glannau Ynys Gybi/Holy Island Coast	68	UK9013101	Wales
Grassholm	37	UK9014041	Wales
Migneint – Ddualt	60	UK9013131	Wales
Mynydd Cilan, Trwyn y Wylfa ac Ynysoedd Sant Tudwal/Mynydd Cilan, Trwyn y Wylfa and the St Tudwal Islands	58	UK9020282	Wales
Ramsey and St David's Peninsula Coast	38	UK9014062	Wales
Severn Estuary	23	UK9015022	Wales/England
Skokholm and Skomer	39	UK9014051	Wales
The Dee Estuary	73	UK9013011	Wales/England
Traeth Lafan/Lavan Sands, Conway Bay	71	UK9013031	Wales
Ynys Feurig, Cemlyn Bay and The Skerries	69	UK9013061	Wales
Ynys Seiriol/Puffin Island	70	UK9020285	Wales

Name	Map code	EU SPA Code	Country
<b>ENGLAND</b>			
Abberton Reservoir	41	UK9009141	England
Alde – Ore Estuary	48	UK9009112	England
Arun Valley	18	UK9020281	England
Ashdown Forest	19	UK9012181	England
Avon Valley	9	UK9011091	England
Benacre to Easton Bavents	56	UK9009291	England
Benfleet and Southend Marshes	32	UK9009171	England
Blackwater Estuary (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 4)	42	UK9009245	England
Bowland Fells	89	UK9005151	England
Breckland	53	UK9009201	England
Breydon Water	65	UK9009181	England
Broadland	66	UK9009253	England
Chesil Beach and The Fleet	6	UK9010091	England
Chew Valley Lake	24	UK9010041	England
Chichester and Langstone Harbours	16	UK9011011	England
Colne Estuary (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 2)	44	UK9009243	England
Coquet Island	119	UK9006031	England
Crouch and Roach Estuaries (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 3)	31	UK9009244	England
Deben Estuary	47	UK9009261	England
Dengie (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 1)	43	UK9009242	England
Dorset Heathlands	7	UK9010101	England
Duddon Estuary	86	UK9005031	England
Dungeness to Pett Level	20	UK9012091	England
East Devon Heaths	5	UK9010121	England
Exe Estuary	4	UK9010081	England
Farne Islands	118	UK9006021	England
Flamborough Head and Bempton Cliffs	91	UK9006101	England
Foulness (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 5)	34	UK9009246	England
Gibraltar Point	76	UK9008022	England
Great Yarmouth North Denes	67	UK9009271	England
Hamford Water	46	UK9009131	England
Holburn Lake and Moss	115	UK9006041	England
Hornsea Mere	81	UK9006171	England
Humber Flats, Marshes and Coast (Phases 1 and 2)	82	UK9006111	England
Isles of Scilly	1	UK9020288	England
Lee Valley	28	UK9012111	England
Leighton Moss	88	UK9005091	England
Lindisfarne	116	UK9006011	England
Lower Derwent Valley	80	UK9006092	England
Marazion Marsh	2	UK9020289	England

Name	Map code	EU SPA Code	Country
Martin Mere	78	UK9005111	England
Medway Estuary and Marshes	30	UK9012031	England
Mersey Estuary	74	UK9005131	England
Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore	72	UK9020287	England
Minsmere – Walberswick	55	UK9009101	England
Morecambe Bay	87	UK9005081	England
Nene Washes	51	UK9008031	England
New Forest	13	UK9011031	England
North Norfolk Coast	64	UK9009031	England
North Pennine Moors	97	UK9006272	England
North York Moors	90	UK9006161	England
Northumbria Coast	117	UK9006131	England
Ouse Washes	52	UK9008041	England
Pagham Harbour	11	UK9012041	England
Poole Harbour	8	UK9010111	England
Porton Down	14	UK9011101	England
Portsmouth Harbour	15	UK9011051	England
Ribble and Alt Estuaries	77	UK9005103	England
Rutland Water	62	UK9008051	England
Salisbury Plain	25	UK9011102	England
Sandlings	54	UK9020286	England
Severn Estuary	23	UK9015022	England/Wales
Solent and Southampton Water	10	UK9011061	England
Somerset Levels and Moors	12	UK9010031	England
South Pennine Moors (Phases 1 and 2)	75	UK9007021	England
South West London Waterbodies	27	UK9012171	England
Stodmarsh	35	UK9012121	England
Stour and Orwell Estuaries	45	UK9009121	England
Tamar Estuaries Complex	3	UK9010141	England
Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast	98	UK9006061	England
Thames Basin Heaths	26	UK9012141	England
Thames Estuary and Marshes	29	UK9012021	England
Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay	36	UK9012071	England
The Dee Estuary	73	UK9013011	England/Wales
The Swale	33	UK9012011	England
The Wash	63	UK9008021	England
Thorne and Hatfield Moors	79	UK9005171	England
Upper Solway Flats and Marshes	106	UK9005012	England/Scotland
Walmore Common	40	UK9007051	England
Wealden Heaths (Phases 1 and 2)	17	UK9012131	England
<b>SCOTLAND</b>			
Abernethy Forest	178	UK9002561	Scotland

Name	Map code	EU SPA Code	Country
Achanalt Marshes	191	UK9001701	Scotland
Ailsa Craig	101	UK9003091	Scotland
Aird and Borge, Benbecula	186	UK9001751	Scotland
Arran Moors	111	UK9003341	Scotland
Assynt Lochs	209	UK9001591	Scotland
Auskerry	230	UK9002381	Scotland
Ballochbuie	156	UK9002781	Scotland
Beinn Dearg	192	UK9001631	Scotland
Ben Alder	152	UK9002551	Scotland
Ben Wyvis	193	UK9001641	Scotland
Black Cart	129	UK9003221	Scotland
Bridgend Flats, Islay	124	UK9003052	Scotland
Buchan Ness to Collieston Coast	182	UK9002491	Scotland
Caenlochan	157	UK9004011	Scotland
Cairngorms	154	UK9002241	Scotland
Caithness and Sutherland Peatlands	211	UK9001151	Scotland
Caithness Lochs	218	UK9001171	Scotland
Calf of Eday	227	UK9002431	Scotland
Cameron Reservoir	144	UK9004131	Scotland
Canna and Sanday	168	UK9001431	Scotland
Cape Wrath	214	UK9001231	Scotland
Castle Loch, Lochmaben	105	UK9003191	Scotland
Cnuic agus Cladach Mhuile (Mull Coast and Hills)	140	UK9003311	Scotland
Coll	147	UK9003031	Scotland
Coll (corncrake)	146	UK9003033	Scotland
Copinsay	229	UK9002151	Scotland
Creag Meagaidh	151	UK9002161	Scotland
Cromarty Firth	194	UK9001623	Scotland
Cuillins	169	UK9001781	Scotland
Din Moss – Hoselaw Loch	114	UK9004291	Scotland
Dornoch Firth and Loch Fleet	196	UK9001622	Scotland
Drumochter Hills	153	UK9002301	Scotland
East Caithness Cliffs	212	UK9001182	Scotland
East Sanday Coast	228	UK9002331	Scotland
Eilean na Muice Duibhe/Duich Moss, Islay	123	UK9003054	Scotland
Eoligarry, Barra	165	UK9001761	Scotland
Fair Isle	232	UK9002091	Scotland
Fala Flow	134	UK9004241	Scotland
Fetlar	242	UK9002031	Scotland
Firth of Forth	132	UK9004411	Scotland
Firth of Forth Islands	135	UK9004171	Scotland
Firth of Tay and Eden Estuary	143	UK9004121	Scotland

Name	Map code	EU SPA Code	Country
Flannan Isles	203	UK9001021	Scotland
Forest of Clunie	155	UK9004391	Scotland
Foula	233	UK9002061	Scotland
Fowlsheugh	164	UK9002271	Scotland
Gladhouse Reservoir	133	UK9004231	Scotland
Glas Eileanan	141	UK9003211	Scotland
Glen App – Galloway Moors	103	UK9003351	Scotland
Glen Tanar	162	UK9002771	Scotland
Greenlaw Moor	113	UK9004281	Scotland
Gruinart Flats, Islay	120	UK9003051	Scotland
Handa	208	UK9001241	Scotland
Hermaness, Saxa Vord and Valla Field	243	UK9002011	Scotland
Hoy	217	UK9002141	Scotland
Inner Clyde Estuary	127	UK9003061	Scotland
Inner Moray Firth	195	UK9001624	Scotland
Inverpolly, Loch Urigill and Nearby Lochs	207	UK9001511	Scotland
Kilpheder to Smerclate, South Uist	167	UK9001083	Scotland
Kintyre Goose Roosts	110	UK9003071	Scotland
Kinveachy Forest	175	UK9002581	Scotland
Knapdale Lochs	126	UK9003301	Scotland
Ladder Hills	179	UK9002951	Scotland
Laggan, Islay	122	UK9003053	Scotland
Lairg and Strathbrora Lochs	210	UK9001611	Scotland
Langholm – Newcastleton Hills	107	UK9003271	Scotland
Lewis Peatlands	205	UK9001571	Scotland
Loch Ashie	173	UK9001554	Scotland
Loch Eye	197	UK9001621	Scotland
Loch Flemington	198	UK9001691	Scotland
Loch Ken and River Dee Marshes	104	UK9003111	Scotland
Loch Knockie and Nearby Lochs	171	UK9001552	Scotland
Loch Leven	130	UK9004111	Scotland
Loch Lomond	128	UK9003021	Scotland
Loch Maree	189	UK9001531	Scotland
Loch of Inch and Torrs Warren	102	UK9003121	Scotland
Loch of Kinnordy	160	UK9004051	Scotland
Loch of Lintrathen	158	UK9004061	Scotland
Loch of Skene	180	UK9002261	Scotland
Loch of Strathbeg	202	UK9002211	Scotland
Loch Ruthven	172	UK9001551	Scotland
Loch Shiel	149	UK9001721	Scotland
Loch Spynie	200	UK9002201	Scotland
Loch Vaa	176	UK9002751	Scotland
Lochnagar	159	UK9002281	Scotland

Name	Map code	EU SPA Code	Country
Lochs of Spiggie and Brow	234	UK9002651	Scotland
Marwick Head	223	UK9002121	Scotland
Mingulay and Berneray	145	UK9001121	Scotland
Mointeach Scadabhaigh	187	UK9001501	Scotland
Monach Isles	184	UK9001071	Scotland
Montrose Basin	163	UK9004031	Scotland
Moray and Nairn Coast	199	UK9001625	Scotland
Mousa	235	UK9002361	Scotland
Muir of Dinnet	161	UK9002791	Scotland
Muirkirk and North Lowther Uplands	112	UK9003261	Scotland
Ness and Barvas, Lewis	213	UK9001741	Scotland
North Caithness Cliffs	216	UK9001181	Scotland
North Colonsay and Western Cliffs	125	UK9003171	Scotland
North Harris Mountains	204	UK9001572	Scotland
North Inverness Lochs	170	UK9001553	Scotland
North Rona and Sula Sgeir	221	UK9001011	Scotland
North Sutherland Coastal Islands	215	UK9001211	Scotland
North Uist Machair and Islands	185	UK9001051	Scotland
Noss	237	UK9002081	Scotland
Orkney Mainland Moors	225	UK9002311	Scotland
Otterswick and Graveland	241	UK9002941	Scotland
Papa Stour	238	UK9002051	Scotland
Papa Westray (North Hill and Holm)	231	UK9002111	Scotland
Pentland Firth Islands	220	UK9001131	Scotland
Priest Island (Summer Isles)	206	UK9001261	Scotland
Ramna Stacks and Gruney	240	UK9002021	Scotland
Rannoch Lochs	150	UK9004021	Scotland
Rinns of Islay	121	UK9003057	Scotland
River Spey – Insh Marshes	174	UK9002231	Scotland
Ronas Hill – North Roe and Tingon	239	UK9002041	Scotland
Rousay	224	UK9002371	Scotland
Rum	148	UK9001341	Scotland
Shiant Isles	188	UK9001041	Scotland
Sleibhtean agus Cladach Thiriodh (Tiree Wetlands and Coast)	137	UK9003032	Scotland
South Tayside Goose Roosts	142	UK9004401	Scotland
South Uist Machair and Lochs	166	UK9001082	Scotland
St Abb's Head to Fast Castle	136	UK9004271	Scotland
St Kilda	183	UK9001031	Scotland
Sule Skerry and Sule Stack	222	UK9002181	Scotland
Sumburgh Head	236	UK9002511	Scotland
Switha	219	UK9002891	Scotland
Tips of Corsemaul and Tom Mor	177	UK9002811	Scotland

Name	Map code	EU SPA Code	Country
Tiree (corncrake)	138	UK9003034	Scotland
Treshnish Isles	139	UK9003041	Scotland
Troup, Pennan and Lion's Heads	201	UK9002471	Scotland
Upper Solway Flats and Marshes	106	UK9005012	Scotland/England
West Westray	226	UK9002101	Scotland
Wester Ross Lochs	190	UK9001711	Scotland
Westwater	131	UK9004251	Scotland
Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch	181	UK9002221	Scotland

## A7.3 Site Accounts

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Detailed descriptions of each SPA within the UK SPA network are presented in the following section. The accounts comprise location and status information on each site along with a brief description of habitats and a full listing of all qualifying species occurring in the site.

The SPA accounts are ordered firstly by country (in the following order) and then alphabetically within each country (see also Table A7.3):

- Northern Ireland
- Wales
- England/Wales
- England
- England/Scotland
- Scotland



# The UK SPA network: its scope and content

Site accounts for Northern Ireland

# Belfast Lough

## 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Northern Ireland	Northern Ireland	Classified 05/08/1998

Latitude	Longitude
54 38 00 N	05 54 00 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9020101	432.14

**Component SSSI/ASSIs** Outer Belfast Lough  
Inner Belfast Lough



Belfast Lough is a large, open sea lough located on the north-eastern coast of Northern Ireland. The inner part of the lough comprises areas of intertidal foreshore, mainly mud-flats and lagoons, and land (subject to past and current land claim) which are important feeding and roosting sites for significant numbers of wintering waders and wildfowl. The extent of the SPA in the outer lough is restricted to mainly rocky shores with some small sandy bays and beach-head saltmarsh. The site is of importance for a wide range of wintering waterbirds.

## 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*Over winter;*

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*, 232 individuals representing 1.3% of the wintering population in Ireland (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*Over winter;*

Redshank *Tringa totanus*, 2,466 individuals representing 1.6% of the wintering Eastern Atlantic – wintering population (5 year peak mean 1991/1992–1995/1996)

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*, 734 individuals representing 1.0% of the wintering Western Palearctic – wintering population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

*Assemblage qualification: A wetland of international importance.*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 waterfowl

Over winter, the area regularly supports 20,492 individual waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6) including: Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*, Redshank *Tringa totanus*, Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*, Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*, Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*, Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*, Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*, Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*, Eider *Somateria mollissima*, Curlew *Numenius arquata*, Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*, Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*,

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, Knot *Calidris canutus*, Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*, Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa islandica*, Scaup *Aythya marila*.

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Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

# Carlingford Lough

## 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Northern Ireland	Northern Ireland	Classified 09/03/1998

Latitude	Longitude
54 03 00 N	06 07 00 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9020161	827.12



**Component SSSI/ASSIs** Carlingford Lough

Carlingford Lough lies on the east coast of Northern Ireland and straddles the international border with the Irish Republic. It is a narrow sea lough surrounded by mountains. The northern shore lies in Northern Ireland and includes the most significant mud-flats in the lough and an area of saltmarsh. These provide important feeding areas for wintering Light-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla hrota* of the Canada/Ireland population. At the mouth of the lough are several small rock and shingle islands which are of importance to breeding terns, which feed in the shallow waters of the lough.

## 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*, 339 pairs representing 10.9% of the breeding population in Ireland (5 year mean, 1993–1997)

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*, 575 pairs representing 13.1% of the breeding population in Ireland (5 year mean, 1993–1997)

This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*Over winter;*

Light-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla hrota*, 319 individuals representing 1.6% of the wintering Canada/Ireland population (WeBS 5yr peak mean 90/91–94/5)

Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Killough Harbour

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### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Northern Ireland	Northern Ireland	Not yet available

Latitude	Longitude
54 15 00 N	05 38 14 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9020221	to be confirmed upon site classification.



Component SSSI/ ASSIs	To be confirmed on classification
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Killough Harbour is located on the south-east coast of County Down in Northern Ireland. It is a small harbour with tidal mud-flats and shingle banks. The site is of importance as a wintering area for Light-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla hrota* of the Canada/Ireland population.

### 2. Qualifying species

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This site qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*Over winter;*

Light-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla hrota*, 354 individuals representing 1.8% of the wintering Canada/Ireland population (WeBS 5yr peak mean 92/3–96/7)

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Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

# Larne Lough

## 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Northern Ireland	Northern Ireland	Classified 04/03/1997

Latitude	Longitude
54 48 54 N	05 44 38 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9020042	395.94



**Component SSSI/ASSIs** Larne Lough

Larne Lough is a sea lough on the east coast of Northern Ireland. It is enclosed to the east by the peninsula of Island Magee. Much of the estuary is shallow, having become extensively infilled with sediments of fine muddy sand, and at low water the largest areas of intertidal flats are exposed in the south of the estuary. The northern parts of the estuary are wider and relatively deep, especially at the mouth where dredging is regularly carried out. In the upper reaches of the estuary at Ballycarry, there is an area of saltmarsh. As the effects of salinity and differing tidal inundation are not greatly felt in the upper parts of Larne Lough, the saltmarsh zonation patterns are not distinct. The vegetation is dominated by mid-upper saltmarsh communities and a *Phragmites australis* reedbed, with some saltmarsh pans. The lough is of importance as a breeding and feeding area for a number of tern species as well as being a wintering site for the Canada/Ireland population of Light-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla hrota*.

The site also includes the subsumed SPA of Swan Island which was subject to separate classification.

## 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*, 180 pairs representing 5.8% of the breeding population in Ireland  
 Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii*, 6 pairs representing 1.5% of the breeding population in Ireland (5 year mean, 1993–1997)

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*, 165 individuals representing 3.8% of the breeding population in Ireland

This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*Over winter;*

Light-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla hrota*, 227 individuals representing 1.1% of the wintering Canada/Ireland population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

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Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

# Lough Foyle

## 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Northern Ireland	Northern Ireland	Classified 27/01/1999

Latitude	Longitude
55 05 24 N	07 01 37 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9020031	2204.36



**Component SSSI/ASSIs** Lough Foyle

Lough Foyle lies on the north-west coast of Northern Ireland and straddles the international border with the Irish Republic. The site comprises a large, shallow sea lough that includes the estuaries of the rivers Foyle, Faughan and Roe. The site contains extensive intertidal mud-flats and sand-flats (with Mussel *Mytilus edulis* beds), saltmarsh and associated brackish ditches. The diversity of coastal habitats has resulted in the lough being of major importance for a diverse assemblage of waterbirds both during the spring and autumn migration periods, and in winter. These include swans, geese, ducks and waders. The lough is especially notable in supporting a high proportion of the international population of Canada/Ireland Light-bellied Brent Goose *Banta bernicla hrota*.

## 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*Over winter;*

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*, 1,896 individuals representing 10.8% of the wintering population in Ireland (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*, 78 individuals representing 3.1% of the wintering population in Ireland (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, 4,891 individuals representing 2.4% of the wintering population in Ireland (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*, 890 individuals representing 8.9% of the wintering population in Ireland (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*Over winter;*

Light-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla hrota*, 3,730 individuals representing 18.6% of the wintering Canada/Ireland population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

*Assemblage qualification: A wetland of international importance.*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 waterfowl

Over winter, the area regularly supports 37,310 individual waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6) including: Teal *Anas crecca*, Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*, Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*, Light-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla hrota*, Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*, Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*, Greylag Goose *Anser anser*, Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*, Wigeon *Anas penelope*, Redshank *Tringa totanus*, Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*, Eider *Somateria mollissima*, Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*, Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*, Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, Knot *Calidris canutus*, Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*, Curlew *Numenius arquata*, Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*.

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Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

# Lough Neagh and Lough Beg

## 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Northern Ireland	Northern Ireland	Classified 01/04/1996

Latitude	Longitude
54 34 11 N	06 24 34 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9020091	40835.53

**Component SSSI/ASSIs** Lough Neagh  
Lough Beg  
Portmore Lough



Lough Neagh is situated in the centre of Northern Ireland. It is the largest freshwater lake in the UK covering an area of 383 sq. km. The lough is very shallow for its size with a mean depth of 8.9 m (at deepest only 34 m). The 125 km shoreline is mostly exposed with wave-beaten rocks and stones but there are also some sheltered, sandy bays with better-developed marginal vegetation including some reedbeds. This site also contains a smaller lake, Lough Beg (covering 1,125 ha) to the north, as well as a small satellite lake, Portmore Lough (286 ha), to the east of Lough Neagh. Lough Beg is essentially a widening of the Lower Bann River downstream of its exit from Lough Neagh, and is very shallow, with a mean depth of 1–2 m. About 200 ha of the west shore is unintensified wet grassland that is largely inundated with floodwater each winter. Rivers flowing into Lough Neagh drain about 43% of Northern Ireland, plus part of County Monaghan in the Republic of Ireland. The loughs support a large and diverse assemblage of waterbirds throughout the year. In winter, the site is of importance for many species of diving and dabbling duck, as well as swans, geese, grebes and waders. In summer, the site supports an important assemblage of breeding seabirds, including several species of gulls and terns, as well as important numbers of Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*.

## 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

### *During the breeding season;*

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*, 185 pairs representing 6.0% of the breeding population in Ireland (Count 1995)

### *Over winter;*

Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*, 136 individuals representing 5.4% of the wintering population in Ireland (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, 5,298 individuals representing 2.6% of the wintering population in Ireland (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*, 1,031 individuals representing 10.3% of the wintering population in Ireland (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*During the breeding season;*

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*, 33,000 pairs representing 2.0% of the breeding Northwestern Europe – breeding population (1987)

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*, 500 pairs representing at least 1.0% of the breeding Northwestern Europe – wintering population

*On passage;*

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*, 2,440 individuals representing at least 1.6% of the Northwestern Europe – wintering population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

*Over winter;*

Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*, 10,776 individuals representing at least 3.6% of the wintering Northwestern/Central Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*, 1,821 individuals representing at least 1.2% of the wintering Northwestern Europe – wintering population

Pochard *Aythya ferina*, 26,341 individuals representing at least 7.5% of the wintering Northwestern/Northeastern Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Scaup *Aythya marila*, 3,798 individuals representing at least 1.2% of the wintering Northern/Western Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*, 22,372 individuals representing at least 2.2% of the wintering Northwestern Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

*Assemblage qualification: A seabird assemblage of international importance*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 seabirds

During the breeding season, the area regularly supports 67,690 individual seabirds (Count period ongoing) including: Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*, Common Gull *Larus canus*, Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*, Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*.

*Assemblage qualification: A wetland of international importance.*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 waterfowl

Over winter, the area regularly supports 99,221 individual waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6) including: Greylag Goose *Anser anser*, Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*, Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*, Pochard *Aythya ferina*, Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*, Scaup *Aythya marila*, Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*, Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*, Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*, Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*, Wigeon *Anas penelope*, Gadwall *Anas strepera*, Teal *Anas crecca*, Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*, Shoveler *Anas clypeata*, Coot *Fulica atra*, Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*.

Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Outer Ards

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Northern Ireland	Northern Ireland	not yet available

Latitude	Longitude
54 30 06 N	05 29 00 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9020271	to be confirmed upon site classification



Component SSSI/ ASSIs	To be confirmed on classification
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The Outer Ards Peninsula is the most sheltered stretch of open rocky coast in Northern Ireland. The width of this rocky intertidal zone is determined by the orientation of outcrop but generally comprises low platforms, up to 200 m across, separated by wide areas of mobile sediments. Other habitats represented include intertidal areas of boulder, cobble, gravel, sand- and mud-flats, together with dune and maritime grassland, maritime heath and cliff ledge vegetation, as well as saltmarsh, tidal and non-tidal fens and wet flushes. The site contains about 8% of the Northern Irish coastline and has a very high proportion of offshore reefs and islands. The Copeland Islands hold breeding populations of European importance of a number of seabirds, including Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*. In winter, the site is of importance for its Canada/Greenland population of Light-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla hrota*, as well as waders, especially Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* and Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

#### *During the breeding season;*

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*, 207 pairs representing at least 8.3% of the breeding population in Ireland (5 year mean (period not specified))

#### *Over winter;*

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, 2,079 individuals representing at least 1.0% of the wintering population in Ireland (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

#### *Over winter;*

Light-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla hrota*, 245 individuals representing at least 1.2% of the wintering Canada/Ireland population (WeBS 5yr peak mean 90/91–94/5)

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, 545 individuals representing at least 1.1% of the wintering Europe/Northern Africa – wintering population (WeBS 5yr peak mean 90/91–94/5)

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*, 1,241 individuals representing at least 1.8% of the wintering Western Palearctic – wintering population (WeBS 5yr peak mean 90/91–94/5)

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Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

# Pettigoe Plateau

## 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Northern Ireland	Northern Ireland	Classified 19/11/1996

Latitude	Longitude
54 32 00 N	07 59 04 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9020051	1264.32



**Component SSSI/ASSIs**      Pettigoe Plateau

The Pettigoe Plateau is situated in County Fermanagh in the west of Northern Ireland to the north of Lower Lough Erne. It abuts the international border with the Irish Republic. It is one of the largest expanses of blanket bog in Northern Ireland, formed on a relatively low-elevation rolling landscape interspersed with hills with mineral soil and depressions with several small lakes. The extensive blanket bog that covers most of the site exhibits the full range of characteristic vegetation and structural features associated with this type of habitat. The plateau is of importance as a breeding area for Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*.

## 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, 12 pairs representing at least 3.0% of the breeding population in Ireland (Two count mean, 1987 & 1995)

## Rathlin Island

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Northern Ireland	Northern Ireland	Classified 25/02/1999

Latitude	Longitude
55 17 30 W	06 13 30 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9020011	3344.62



**Component SSSI/ASSIs** Rathlin Island Coast

Rathlin Island is a large inhabited island located some 4 km off the north coast of County Antrim in Northern Ireland. It has basalt and chalk cliffs, some as high as 100 m, as well as several sea-stacks on the north and west shores of the island, many of which are important for seabirds. The south and east shores are more gently sloping with areas of maritime grassland and rocky shore. The length of the coastline is approximately 30 km. Inland there are wetlands, a limited amount of maritime heath and a mosaic of grazing of varying intensity. The island supports an important breeding assemblage of seabirds, especially including auk and gull species. Large numbers of Peregrine *Falco peregrinus* also nest on the cliffs. Although the SPA supports a substantial marine area, the seabirds also feed outside the SPA in surrounding marine areas.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*, 6 pairs representing at least 1.6% of the breeding population in Ireland (5 year mean, 1992–1996)

This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*During the breeding season;*

Guillemot *Uria aalge*, 28,064 pairs representing at least 1.2% of the breeding East Atlantic population (Seafarer Count 1985)

Razorbill *Alca torda*, 5,978 pairs representing at least 1.0% of the breeding population

*Assemblage qualification: A seabird assemblage of international importance*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 seabirds

During the breeding season, the area regularly supports 66,000 individual seabirds including: Puffin *Fratercula arctica*, Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*, Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*, Lesser Black-backed Gull

*Larus fuscus*, Common Gull *Larus canus*, Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*, Razorbill *Alca torda*, Guillemot *Uria aalge*.

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Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Sheep Island

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### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Northern Ireland	Northern Ireland	Classified 21/12/1992

Latitude	Longitude
55 14 56 N	06 21 00 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9020021	3.5



**Component SSSI/ ASSIs**      Sheep Island

Sheep Island is located off the north coast of County Antrim in Northern Ireland. It is a small, exposed island with steep cliffs and rocky shores, and holds a breeding colony of Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo carbo*.

### 2. Qualifying species

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This site qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*During the breeding season;*

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*, 249 pairs representing at least 0.6% of the breeding Northwestern Europe population (5 year mean 1992–1996)

# Strangford Lough

## 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Northern Ireland	Northern Ireland	Classified 09/03/1998

Latitude	Longitude
54 26 40 N	05 35 40 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9020111	15580.79



<b>Component SSSI/ASSIs</b>	Strangford Lough part 1 Strangford Lough part 2 Strangford Lough part 3 Ballyquintin Point Killard Quoile
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Strangford Lough is located on the east coast of Northern Ireland in County Down. It is a shallow sea lough with an indented shoreline and a wide variety of marine and intertidal habitats. The west shore has numerous islands typical of flooded drumlin topography. The lough contains extensive areas of mud-flat, saltmarsh and rocky coastline. The diversity of sheltered estuarine habitats means that it is the most important coastal site in Northern Ireland for wintering waterbirds, holding large numbers of geese, ducks and waders. It is especially notable as an autumn arrival site for most of the world population of the Canadian population of Light-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla hrota*. Smaller numbers remain to spend the winter after most have dispersed to other sites in Ireland. In summer, the lough supports three species of breeding terns.

## 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

### *During the breeding season;*

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*, 210 pairs representing at least 8.4% of the breeding population in Ireland (5 year peak mean, 1992/3–1996/7)

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*, 603 pairs representing at least 19.5% of the breeding population in Ireland (5 year peak mean, 1992/3–1996/7)

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*, 593 pairs representing at least 13.5% of the breeding population in Ireland (5 year peak mean, 1992/3–1996/7)

### *Over winter;*

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*, 882 individuals representing at least 5.0% of the wintering population in Ireland (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, 6,526 individuals representing at least 3.3% of the wintering population in Ireland (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*Over winter;*

Knot *Calidris canutus*, 8,723 individuals representing at least 2.5% of the wintering Northeastern Canada/Greenland/Iceland/Northwestern Europe population (5 year peak mean, 1992/3–1996/7)

Light-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla hrota*, 10,527 individuals representing at least 52.6% of the wintering Canada/Ireland population (5 year peak mean, 1992/3–1996/7)

Redshank *Tringa totanus*, 3,176 individuals representing at least 2.1% of the wintering Eastern Atlantic – wintering population (5 year peak mean, 1992/3–1996/7)

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*, 3,871 individuals representing at least 1.3% of the wintering Northwestern Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

*Assemblage qualification: A wetland of international importance.*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 waterfowl

Over winter, the area regularly supports 60,220 individual waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6) including: Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*, Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*, Light-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla hrota*, Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*, Knot *Calidris canutus*, Redshank *Tringa totanus*, Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*, Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*, Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*, Greylag Goose *Anser anser*, Wigeon *Anas penelope*, Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, Teal *Anas crecca*, Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*, Pintail *Anas acuta*, Shoveler *Anas clypeata*, Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*, Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*, Coot *Fulica atra*, Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*, Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*, Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*, Curlew *Numenius arquata*, Gadwall *Anas strepera*.

Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

# Upper Lough Erne

## 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Northern Ireland	Northern Ireland	Classified 04/03/1997

Latitude	Longitude
54 12 00 N	07 29 40 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9020071	5771.54



Component SSSI/ ASSIs	
	Upper Lough Erne – Belleisle
	Upper Lough Erne – Trannish
	Upper Lough Erne – Crom
	Upper Lough Erne – Galloon
	Inishroosk
	Corraslough Point
	Dernish Island
	Killymackan Lough
	Finn Floods

Upper Lough Erne is a very large and complex freshwater system located in the south of Northern Ireland. It lies within the catchment of the River Erne, a river shared with the Irish Republic. A series of flooded drumlins in the course of the River Erne give rise to a complex of islands, bays and many lakes bordered by damp pastures, fens, reedswamp, Alder *Alnus glutinosa*-willow *Salix* sp. carr, and Oak *Quercus* sp. Woodland. The site supports a wide range of breeding and wintering waterbirds, but is especially important for wintering Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*.

## 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

### Over winter;

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*, 352 individuals representing at least 3.5% of the wintering population in Ireland (5 year peak mean, 1991/2–1995/6)

Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.



# The UK SPA network: its scope and content

Site accounts for Wales

## Berwyn

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Wales	Gwynedd Powys Wrexham Denbighshire	Classified 16/01/1998

Latitude	Longitude
52 50 19 N	03 36 24 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9013111	24187.53



<b>Component SSSI/ ASSIs</b>	Berwyn Pistyll Rhaeadr
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Berwyn is an extensive area of acidic North Wales upland, reaching an altitude of 827 m, straddling the Glyndwr, Montgomery and Meirionnydd districts of Clwyd, Powys and Gwynedd respectively. It comprises blanket mire and heather-dominated heath, with some acidic grassland and Bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* dominated areas. It is one of the largest and most important upland massifs of this type in Wales. It supports large and diverse assemblages of breeding upland birds, including raptors such as Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*, Merlin *Falco columbarius* and Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

#### *During the breeding season;*

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*, 14 pairs representing at least 2.8% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year mean, 1991–1995)

Merlin *Falco columbarius*, 14 pairs representing at least 1.1% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year mean, 1991–1995)

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*, 18 pairs representing at least 1.5% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year mean, 1991–1995)

## Burry Inlet

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Wales	Carmarthenshire Swansea	Classified 14/07/1992

Latitude	Longitude
51 38 56 N	04 10 40 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9015011	6628



**Component SSSI/ASSIs** Burry Inlet and Loughor Estuary  
Pembrey Coast  
Whiteford Burrows – Landimore Marsh

Burry Inlet is a large estuarine complex located between the Gower Peninsula and Llanelli in South Wales. It includes extensive areas of intertidal sand- and mud-flats, together with large sand dune systems at the mouth of the estuary. The site contains the largest continuous area of saltmarsh in Wales (2,200 ha). The estuary experiences wide tidal fluctuations (about 8 m) which has the consequence of exposing a large extent of intertidal sediments on a regular basis. These are mostly sandy, but muddy substrates are to be found in more sheltered areas. The Burry Inlet regularly supports large numbers of overwintering wildfowl and waders that feed in the saltmarshes and on the intertidal areas.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

#### Over winter;

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*, 13,590 individuals representing at least 1.5% of the wintering Europe & Northern/Western Africa population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Pintail *Anas acuta*, 1,772 individuals representing at least 3.0% of the wintering Northwestern Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

#### Assemblage qualification: A wetland of international importance.

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 waterfowl

Over winter, the area regularly supports 34,962 individual waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6) including: Curlew *Numenius arquata*, Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa islandica*, Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*, Knot *Calidris canutus*, Shoveler *Anas clypeata*, Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*, Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*, Pintail *Anas acuta*.

Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Castlemartin Coast

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Wales	Pembrokeshire	Classified 12/01/1996

Latitude	Longitude
51 37 46 N	05 03 33 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9014061	1122.32



<b>Component SSSI/ASSIs</b>	Broomhill Burrows Castlemartin Cliffs and Dunes Stackpole
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Castlemartin Coast is located on the south-west peninsular of Wales about 10 km south of Pembroke. Here 20 km of rocky coast with sea cliffs of Carboniferous Limestone is of national geological and biological interest. The exposed sea cliffs support characteristic plants such as Thrift *Armeria maritima*, Golden-samphire *Inula crithmoides*, Rock Sea-lavender *Limonium binervosum* and Sea Aster *Aster tripolium*, as well as rarities such as Goldilocks Aster *A. linosyris* and Small Restharrow *Ononis reclinata*. Behind the cliff edges, species-rich maritime grasslands occur in front of maritime heath that in turn grades into Gorse *Ulex europaeus* scrub in more sheltered situations. Rough winter grazing by sheep and cattle maintains the character of the maritime grasslands, and is essential for Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*. At the western end, a large calcareous dune system has an extensive natural transition to wet communities in dune slacks. The cliffs, dunes and wetland habitats along this section of coast support a rich invertebrate fauna. The cliffs are of importance for breeding Chough, which exploit their immediate hinterland. They depend on the diverse mix of habitats present within the site and their continued low-intensity agricultural management.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*, 12 pairs representing at least 3.5% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count as at 1998)

*Over winter;*

Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*, 24 pairs representing at least 3.5% of the wintering population in Great Britain (Count as at 1998)

## Craig yr Aderyn (Bird's Rock)

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Wales	Gwynedd	not yet available 01/02/2001

Latitude	Longitude
52 64 16 N	04 00 15 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9020283	to be confirmed upon site classification.



**Component SSSI/**      Craig yr Aderyn (Bird's Rock)  
**ASSIs**

The high crag of Craig Yr Aderyn/Bird's Rock in west Wales, rising from sea level to over 250 m, is a striking landscape feature on the south side of the Dysynni valley near Tywyn. The SPA comprises rocky crags, acid grassland, heath and Bracken *Pteridium aquilinum*. The site is of European importance as a traditional breeding and roosting site for Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*, which are present throughout the year. Non-breeding birds roost during the summer and traditionally there are high numbers outside the breeding season. The maintenance of a short grassy sward, which provides an important feeding area for Chough, is considered one of the factors influencing the number of breeding and roosting birds.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*, 6 pairs representing at least 1.8% of the breeding population in Great Britain

*Over winter;*

Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*, 55 individuals representing at least 8.0% of the wintering population in Great Britain

## Dyfi Estuary/Aber Dyfi

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### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Wales	Gwynedd Powys Ceredigion	not yet available 01/02/2001

Latitude	Longitude
52 54 43 N	03 98 32 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9020284	to be confirmed upon site classification.

**Component SSSI/  
ASSIs** Dyfi

The Dyfi Estuary is located on the west coast of Wales on the boundary between Ceredigion, Gwynedd and Powys. The SPA comprises the estuary, with adjoining saltmarsh, marshy grassland and improved grassland. The estuarine complex is of outstanding physiographic interest. It includes sandbanks, mud-flats, saltmarsh, peatbogs, river channels and creeks, with an extensive sand dune complex across the mouth of the estuary. The site is of importance as a traditional wintering area for Greenland White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons flavirostris* – the most southerly regularly used area for this population in the UK. Until the early 1980s the geese roosted on the estuary and flew inland either to the Cambrian mountains or to the raised bog of Cors Fochno to feed. The geese now use the saltmarsh and grasslands for feeding and roost on the sandbanks and mud-flats.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*Over winter;*

Greenland White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons flavirostris*, 144 individuals representing at least 1.0% of the wintering population in Great Britain

Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Elenydd – Mallaen

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Wales	Carmarthenshire Ceredigion Powys	Classified 12/01/1996

Latitude	Longitude
52 16 08 N	03 43 43 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9014111	30022.14



#### Component SSSI/ ASSIs

Vicarage Meadows  
Afon Teifi  
Caeau Troed-Rhiw-Drain (Troed-Rhiw-Drain Meadows)  
Carn Gafallt  
Cerrig-gwalch  
Coed yr Allt-goch  
Coedydd Glannau a Cwm Coel  
Cwm Doethie – Mynydd Mallaen  
Cwm Gwynllyn  
Elenydd  
Gweunydd Tyn-y-LLidiart  
Llynoedd Ieuan  
Marcheini Uplands, Gilfach Farm & Gamallt  
Rhos yr Hafod  
Rhodydd Llanwrthwl

Elenydd – Mallaen is located in the uplands of central Wales. This extensive site includes heath and blanket mire-dominated uplands (rising to about 460 m), and is intersected by valleys containing woodlands and grasslands. It is one of the most important areas of hill land for nature conservation in Wales. Crags are frequent throughout the site. The site is especially important for a number of breeding raptors, some of which are resident throughout the year. The diversity and quality of upland habitats provide an abundance of suitable feeding and nesting sites.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

#### *During the breeding season;*

Merlin *Falco columbarius*, 7 pairs representing at least 0.5% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year mean, 1987–1991)

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*, 15 pairs representing at least 1.3% of the breeding population in Great Britain

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*, 15 pairs representing at least 9.4% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count as at 1997)

# Glannau Aberdaron and Ynys Enlli/Aberdaron Coast and Bardsey Island

## 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Wales	Gwynedd	Classified 10/06/1992

Latitude	Longitude
52 48 34 N	04 44 37 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9013121	505.03



**Component SSSI/ASSIs** Glannau Aberdaron  
Ynys Enlli – Bardsey Island  
Ynysoedd y Gwylanod, Gwylan Islands

Glannau Aberdaron and Ynys Enlli, or Aberdaron Coast and Bardsey Island, is located at the tip of the Llyn Peninsula in north-west Wales. The site consists of the island of Bardsey (Ynys Enlli) and part of the tip of the Llyn Peninsula, together with two smaller islands – the Gwylans. The coastline is rocky, with many crags, scree and low cliffs. The Aberdaron coast consists of a series of heather-covered hills rising to about 190 m, separated by valleys occupied by pastures. The maritime heaths are dominated by Heather *Calluna vulgaris*, Bell Heather *Erica cinerea* and Western Gorse *Ulex gallii* and are exposed to strong westerly winds. The Mountain on Ynys Enlli has similar heathland to the mainland, whilst the sheltered scree on the north-east of the island have a rich fern and bryophyte flora. The site supports a resident population of Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax* which depend on the diverse mix of habitats present and their low-intensity agricultural management. The site also holds a large breeding colony of Manx Shearwaters *Puffinus p. puffinus*. The shearwaters feed outside the SPA in the nearby waters as well as more distantly in the Irish Sea.

## 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*, 12 pairs representing at least 3.5% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count, as at late 1990s)

*Over winter;*

Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*, 24 pairs representing at least 3.5% of the wintering population in Great Britain (RSPB)

This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*During the breeding season;*

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*, 6,930 pairs representing at least 2.6% of the breeding population (Count, as at 1996)

## Glannau Ynys Gybi/Holy Island Coast

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Wales	Isle of Anglesey	Classified 10/06/1992

Latitude	Longitude
53 18 07 N	04 41 21 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9013101	352.59



<b>Component SSSI/ASSIs</b>	Glannau Rhoscolyn/Rhoscolyn Coast Tre Wilmot Glannau Ynys Gybi – Holy Island Coast
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The SPA of Glannau Ynys Gybi (Holy Island Coast) is located on the west coast of Holy Island which lies to the west of the island of Anglesey in North Wales. It consists of sea-cliffs with cliff-top heath and grassland. The cliffs are formed from geologically complex and greatly folded strata comprising grits and sandstones with interbedded shales. The cliffs rise to 120 m and the hinterland to 220 m on Holyhead Mountain. There are many small offshore stacks and islets. The maritime heath is dominated by Heather *Calluna vulgaris*, Bell Heather *Erica cinerea* and Western Gorse *Ulex gallii* and is exposed to strong westerly winds. The site supports a resident population of Chough *Pyrrhonorax pyrrhonorax*, which depend on the diverse mix of habitats and their low-intensity agricultural management.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

#### *During the breeding season;*

Chough *Pyrrhonorax pyrrhonorax*, 18 pairs representing at least 5.3% of the breeding population in Great Britain (count as at 1998)

#### *Over winter;*

Chough *Pyrrhonorax pyrrhonorax*, 18 pairs representing at least 2.6% of the wintering population in Great Britain (count as at 1998)

# Grassholm

## 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Wales	Pembrokeshire	Classified 31/01/1986

Latitude	Longitude
51 43 51 N	05 28 47 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9014041	10.72



**Component SSSI/ASSIs**      Grassholm

Grassholm is a small island which lies about 18 km west of the mainland coast of Pembrokeshire in south-west Wales. It is a rather low, flat-topped basalt island with limited terrestrial vegetation owing to the effects of large numbers of breeding seabirds, together with the influence of salt spray and wind exposure. Grassholm is of major importance as a breeding site for Gannet *Morus bassana*. The seabirds feed outside the SPA in nearby waters, as well as more distantly elsewhere in the Irish Sea.

## 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*During the breeding season;*

Gannet *Morus bassana*, 33,000 pairs representing at least 12.5% of the breeding North Atlantic population (Count as at 1994/5)

## Migneint – Dduallt

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Wales	Conwy Gwynedd	not yet available 01/ 02/2001

Latitude	Longitude
52 97 98 N	03 74 43 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9013131	to be confirmed upon site classification.



**Component SSSI/**      To be confirmed on classification  
**ASSIs**

Migneint – Dduallt is located in the northern part of central Wales, extending from the north-east of Dolgellau to Ffestiniog, north to Ysbyty Ifan and east to Lynne Celyn. The SPA comprises an extensive tract of blanket bog, heathland and grassland. The blanket bog and heathland vegetation is some of the finest in Europe. The site is of European importance for breeding Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus* and breeding Merlin *Falco columbarius*. Hen Harrier productivity is believed to be good, with an average in recent years of between 2–3 chicks per occupied nest site. Both species regularly nest and feed over the whole area. Merlin also nest in the fringing conifer plantations. The Berwyn SPA, a comparable but larger site supporting the same species, lies to the south-east of Migneint – Dduallt.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*, 10 pairs representing at least 2.0% of the breeding population in Great Britain

Merlin *Falco columbarius*, 7 pairs representing at least 0.5% of the breeding population in Great Britain

## Mynydd Cilan, Trwyn y Wylfa ac Ynysoedd Sant Tudwal/Mynydd Cilan, Trwyn y Wylfa and the St Tudwal Islands

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Wales	Gwynedd	not yet available

Latitude	Longitude
52 79 32 N	04 51 15 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9020282	to be confirmed upon site classification.



**Component SSSI/ASSIs** Porth Ceiriad ac Ynysoedd Sant Tudwal

The SPA of Mynydd Cilan, Trwyn y Wylfa ac Ynysoedd Sant Tudwal/Mynydd Cilan, Trwyn y Wylfa and the St Tudwal Islands is located on the southern coast of the Llyn Peninsula in North Wales. The SPA consists of a 10 km stretch of Atlantic vegetated sea-cliff and exposed sandy shore from Penrhyn Du in the east, to the eastern edge of Porth Neigwl in the west. These cliffs have adjacent habitats composed of unimproved permanent pasture, maritime grassland, semi-improved grassland, arable farmland, and coastal and maritime heath. Altitude varies from zero to 112 m above sea level at the most elevated part of the heath at Mynydd Cilan. Botanically, the maritime grassland and areas of western heath, with stands of Western Gorse *Ulex gallii*, Bell Heather *Erica cinerea*, Heather *Calluna vulgaris* and Cross-leaved Heath *E. tetralix*, are of particular interest and also support a number of rare plants. The coastal habitats of the SPA support an important resident population of Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*, which depend on the diverse mix of habitats present and their low-intensity agricultural management.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*, 9 pairs representing at least 2.6% of the breeding population in Great Britain (RSPB 1998)

*Over winter;*

Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*, 18 pairs representing at least 2.6% of the wintering population in Great Britain (count as at 1998)

## Ramsey and St David's Peninsula Coast

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Wales	Pembrokeshire	Classified 24/07/1996

Latitude	Longitude
51 54 39 N	05 16 57 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9014062	845.63



<b>Component SSSI/ASSIs</b>	Ramsey St. David's Peninsula Coast
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The SPA of Ramsey and St David's Peninsula Coast is located in north Pembrokeshire in south-west Wales. The site comprises the island of Ramsey and an adjacent length of cliff and coastal habitats running around the peninsula of St David's. The huge and often greatly indented cliffs support a wide range of typical maritime vegetation communities, ranging from rock-crevice communities on the most exposed cliff faces to maritime grassland, heath and scrub on shallower slopes and in the hinterland. These coastal habitats support an important resident population of Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*. These birds nest at high density in traditional locations within the cliffs and depend on the diverse mix of coastal habitats present and their low-intensity agricultural management.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

#### *During the breeding season;*

Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*, 11 pairs representing at least 3.2% of the breeding population in Great Britain

#### *Over winter;*

Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*, 22 pairs representing at least 3.2% of the wintering population in Great Britain (no source)

# Skokholm and Skomer

## 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Wales	Pembrokeshire	Classified 31/08/1982

Latitude	Longitude
51 44 10 N	05 17 30 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9014051	427.71



**Component SSSI/ASSIs** Skokholm  
Skomer Island and Middleholm

Skomer, Skokholm and Middleholm are three islands lying off the extreme south-west tip of Pembrokeshire in south-west Wales. They are bounded by cliffs that reach 70 m on Skomer. The plateau vegetation is much affected by salt spray, rabbit grazing and nutrient enrichment from seabirds. The islands have mixed grassland and maritime heath vegetation in varying proportions, and on Skomer especially there are now large stands of Bracken *Pteridium aquilinum*. The coastal habitats of the SPA support an important resident population of Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*. These birds nest at high density in traditional locations within the cliffs and depend on the diverse mix of coastal habitats present and their low-intensity agricultural management. The islands also support a large number of breeding seabirds, especially petrels, gulls and auks. Especially notable is the high proportion (over half) of the world population of Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus* that nest here. The nesting seabirds using the site feed outside the SPA in surrounding marine areas, as well as more distantly.

## 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*, 4 pairs representing at least 1.2% of the breeding population in Great Britain

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*, 6 pairs representing at least 0.6% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count as at 1998)

Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*, 3,500 pairs representing at least 4.1% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count as at 1995)

This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*During the breeding season;*

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*, 20,300 pairs representing at least 16.4% of the breeding Western Europe/Mediterranean/Western Africa population (Mean 1993 to 1997)

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*, 150,968 pairs representing at least 56.9% of the breeding population (Count, as at late 1990s)

Puffin *Fratercula arctica*, 9,500 pairs representing at least 1.1% of the breeding population (Count, as at mid-1980s)

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*Assemblage qualification: A seabird assemblage of international importance*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 seabirds

During the breeding season, the area regularly supports 67,278 individual seabirds (Count period ongoing) including: Razorbill *Alca torda*, Guillemot *Uria aalge*, Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*, Puffin *Fratercula arctica*, Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*, Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*, Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*.

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Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Traeth Lafan/Lavan Sands, Conway Bay

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Wales	Gwynedd Conwy	Classified 10/06/1992

Latitude	Longitude
53 15 18 N	04 02 31 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9013031	2642.98



**Component SSSI/** Traeth Lafan  
**ASSIs**

Traeth Lafan/Lavan Sands is located in Conway Bay close to Bangor in north-west Wales. It is a large intertidal area of sand- and mud-flats lying at the eastern edge of the Menai Straits. The area has a range of exposures and a diversity of conditions, enhanced by freshwater streams that flow across the flats. The site is of importance for wintering waterbirds, especially Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*. In conditions of severe winter weather, Traeth Lafan acts as a refuge area for Oystercatchers displaced from the nearby Dee Estuary.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*Over winter;*

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*, 4,931 individuals representing at least 0.5% of the wintering Europe & Northern/Western Africa population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Ynys Feurig, Cemlyn Bay and The Skerries

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Wales	Isle of Anglesey	Classified 10/06/1992

Latitude	Longitude
53 24 42 N	04 30 43 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9013061	85.66

Component SSSI/ ASSIs	Cemlyn Bay The Skerries Ynys Feurig
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The SPA of Ynys Feurig, Cemlyn Bay and The Skerries is located on the north and west coasts of the island of Anglesey off north-west Wales. The SPA comprises three separate areas. Ynys Feurig lies on Anglesey's west coast close to Valley airfield, with Cemlyn Bay situated on the north coast about 20 km away. The Skerries lie 3 km off Carmel Head. Ynys Feurig consists of a series of low-lying islands extending about 1 km out to sea from a sandy shore. There is little vegetation, except on the highest outer islands. At Cemlyn Bay, a shingle storm beach forms a bar between a tidal lagoon and the open shore. The shingle habitats, together with saltmarsh developing around the lagoon and brackish pools further inland are an unusual combination of habitats. The Skerries are a group of sparsely vegetated islets, 17 ha in extent. They are protected by strong currents but are very exposed to strong westerly and northerly winds. The site is of importance for four species of breeding terns. The three separate areas are treated as a single site as a consequence of regular movement by birds between the component parts.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

#### *During the breeding season;*

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*, 1,290 pairs representing at least 2.9% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year mean, 1992–1996)

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*, 189 pairs representing at least 1.5% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year mean, 1992–1996)

Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii*, 3 pairs representing at least 5.0% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year mean, 1992–1996)

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*, 460 pairs representing at least 3.3% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year mean, 1993–1997)

## Ynys Seiriol/Puffin Island

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Wales	Isle of Anglesey	not yet available 01/02/2001

Latitude	Longitude
53 31 69 N	04 02 54 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9020285	to be confirmed upon site classification.



**Component SSSI/** Puffin Island – Ynys Seiriol  
**ASSIs**

Ynys Seiriol/Puffin Island is located just off the eastern tip of the Isle of Anglesey in North Wales. It is a Carboniferous limestone block rising to 55 m with steep cliffs on all sides. A veneer of heavily guano-enriched soil masks the limestone over much of the surface, leading to an impoverished vegetation dominated by a dense mat of grasses (mainly Red Fescue *Festuca rubra* and Cock's-foot *Dactylis glomerata*), Common Nettle *Urtica dioica*, Bramble *Rubus fruticosus* and Alexanders *Smyrnium olusatrum*. It was heavily grazed by rabbits until the advent of myxomatosis. Dense woodland of Elder *Sambucus nigra* has developed, particularly in the past 40 years since the loss of rabbit grazing. The island has long been unoccupied. A large population of Common Rat *Rattus norvegicus* appears to have been eradicated by poisoning undertaken in 1998 to enhance its value for breeding seabirds. The site is of European importance for its breeding population of Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*, which feed in the surrounding waters outside the SPA.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*During the breeding season;*

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*, 776 pairs representing at least 1.9% of the breeding Northwestern Europe population (count as at 1996)



# The UK SPA network: its scope and content

Site accounts for England/Wales

# Severn Estuary

## 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
England/Wales	Cardiff City of Bristol Newport North Somerset Somerset South Gloucestershire Vale of Glamorgan Gloucestershire Monmouthshire	Classified 13/07/1995



Latitude	Longitude
51 13 29 N	03 02 57 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9015022	24700.91

Component SSSI/ ASSIs	
	Bridgwater Bay
	Flat Holm
	Severn Estuary
	Steep Holm
	Sully Island
	Upper Severn Estuary
	Penarth Coast
	Bridgwater Bay
	Flat Holm
	Severn Estuary
	Steep Holm
	Sully Island
	Upper Severn Estuary

The Severn Estuary is located between Wales and England in south-west Britain. It is a large estuary with extensive intertidal mud-flats and sand-flats, rocky platforms and islands. Saltmarsh fringes the coast backed by grazing marsh with freshwater ditches and occasional brackish ditches. The seabed is rock and gravel with sub-tidal sandbanks. The estuary's classic funnel shape, unique in the UK, is a factor causing the Severn to have the second-highest tidal range in the world (after the Bay of Fundy in Canada). This tidal regime results in plant and animal communities typical of the extreme physical conditions of liquid mud and tide-swept sand and rock. The species-poor invertebrate community includes high densities of ragworms, lugworms and other invertebrates forming an important food source for passage and wintering waders. A further consequence of the large tidal range is an extensive intertidal zone, one of the largest in the UK. The site is of importance during the spring and autumn migration periods for waders moving up the west coast of Britain, as well as in winter for large numbers of waterbirds, especially swans, ducks and waders.

## 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*Over winter;*

Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*, 280 individuals representing at least 4.0% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

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This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*On passage;*

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, 655 individuals representing at least 1.3% of the Europe/Northern Africa – wintering population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

*Over winter;*

Curlew *Numenius arquata*, 3,903 individuals representing at least 1.1% of the wintering Europe – breeding population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*, 44,624 individuals representing at least 3.2% of the wintering Northern Siberia/Europe/Western Africa population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Pintail *Anas acuta*, 599 individuals representing at least 1.0% of the wintering Northwestern Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Redshank *Tringa totanus*, 2,330 individuals representing at least 1.6% of the wintering Eastern Atlantic – wintering population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*, 3,330 individuals representing at least 1.1% of the wintering Northwestern Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

*Assemblage qualification: A wetland of international importance.*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 waterfowl

Over winter, the area regularly supports 93,986 individual waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6) including: Gadwall *Anas strepera*, Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*, Pintail *Anas acuta*, Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*, Curlew *Numenius arquata*, Redshank *Tringa totanus*, Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*, Wigeon *Anas penelope*, Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, Teal *Anas crecca*, Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*, Shoveler *Anas clypeata*, Pochard *Aythya ferina*, Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*, Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*, White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons albifrons*.

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Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

# The Dee Estuary

## 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
England/Wales	Cheshire Flintshire Wirral	Classified 17/07/1985

Latitude	Longitude
53 18 39 N	03 11 06 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9013011	13076.29



Component SSSI/ ASSIs	Dee Estuary Inner Marsh Farm Shotton Lagoons & Reedbeds Dee Estuary/Aber Afon Dyfrdwy Gronant Dunes and Talacre Warren
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The Dee Estuary lies on the boundary between England and Wales on the north-west coast of Britain. It is a large, funnel-shaped, sheltered estuary that supports extensive areas of intertidal sand-flats, mud-flats and saltmarsh. Where agricultural land-claim has not occurred, the saltmarshes grade into transitional brackish and swamp vegetation on the upper shore. The site also includes the three sandstone islands of Hilbre with their important cliff vegetation and maritime heathland and grassland. The two shorelines of the estuary show a marked contrast between the industrialised usage of the coastal belt in Wales and residential and recreational usage in England. The site is of major importance for water-birds. During the winter, the intertidal flats and saltmarshes provide feeding and roosting sites for large populations of ducks and waders. In summer, the site supports breeding populations of two species of terns at levels of European importance. The site is also important during migration periods, particularly for wader populations moving along the west coast of Britain.

## 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

### *During the breeding season;*

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*, 277 pairs representing at least 2.3% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year mean 1991–95)

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*, 56 pairs representing at least 2.3% of the breeding population in Great Britain (RSPB, 5 year mean 1991–95)

### *On passage;*

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*, 818 individuals representing at least 5.8% of the population in Great Britain (5 year mean 1991–95)

### *Over winter;*

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*, 1,013 individuals representing at least 1.9% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*On passage;*

Redshank *Tringa totanus*, 8,451 individuals representing at least 4.8% of the Eastern Atlantic – wintering population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

*Over winter;*

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa islandica*, 1,739 individuals representing at least 2.5% of the wintering Iceland – breeding population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Curlew *Numenius arquata*, 4,028 individuals representing at least 1.2% of the wintering Europe – breeding population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*, 22,479 individuals representing at least 1.6% of the wintering Northern Siberia/Europe/Western Africa population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*, 2,193 individuals representing at least 1.5% of the wintering Eastern Atlantic – wintering population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Knot *Calidris canutus*, 21,553 individuals representing at least 6.2% of the wintering Northeastern Canada/Greenland/Iceland/Northwestern Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*, 28,434 individuals representing at least 3.2% of the wintering Europe & Northern/Western Africa population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Pintail *Anas acuta*, 6,498 individuals representing at least 10.8% of the wintering Northwestern Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Redshank *Tringa totanus*, 6,382 individuals representing at least 4.3% of the wintering Eastern Atlantic – wintering population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*, 6,827 individuals representing at least 2.3% of the wintering Northwestern Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Teal *Anas crecca*, 5,918 individuals representing at least 1.5% of the wintering Northwestern Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

*Assemblage qualification: A wetland of international importance.*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 waterfowl

Over winter, the area regularly supports 130,408 individual waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6) including: Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa islandica*, Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*, Teal *Anas crecca*, Pintail *Anas acuta*, Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*, Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*, Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*, Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*, Sanderling *Calidris alba*, Curlew *Numenius arquata*, Redshank *Tringa totanus*, Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*, Wigeon *Anas penelope*, Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*, Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, Knot *Calidris canutus*.

Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.



# The UK SPA network: its scope and content

Site accounts for England

## Abberton Reservoir

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
England	Essex	Classified 05/12/1991

Latitude	Longitude
51 49 37 N	00 52 22 E

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9009141	726.2



**Component SSSI/** Abberton Reservoir  
**ASSIs**

Abberton Reservoir is located close to the coast of Essex in eastern England. It is a large, shallow, fresh-water storage reservoir built in a long, shallow valley and is the largest freshwater body in Essex. It is one of the most important reservoirs in Britain for wintering wildfowl, with a key role as a roost for wildfowl and waders feeding in adjacent estuarine areas. The site is also important for winter feeding and autumn moulting of waterbirds. The margins of parts of the reservoir have well-developed plant communities that provide important opportunities for feeding, nesting and shelter. Abberton Reservoir is important especially as an autumn arrival area for waterbirds that subsequently spend the winter elsewhere.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*Over winter;*

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, 3,714 individuals representing at least 1.5% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*During the breeding season;*

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*, 490 pairs representing at least 1.2% of the breeding Northwestern Europe population (5 year mean, 1993–1997)

*Over winter;*

Gadwall *Anas strepera*, 518 individuals representing at least 1.7% of the wintering Northwestern Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Shoveler *Anas clypeata*, 654 individuals representing at least 1.6% of the wintering Northwestern/Central Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Teal *Anas crecca*, 5,326 individuals representing at least 1.3% of the wintering Northwestern Europe population

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*Assemblage qualification: A wetland of international importance.*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 waterfowl

Over winter, the area regularly supports 39,155 individual waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6) including: Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa islandica*, Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, Coot *Fulica atra*, Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*, Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*, Pochard *Aythya ferina*, Pintail *Anas acuta*, Wigeon *Anas penelope*, Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*, Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*, Shoveler *Anas clypeata*, Teal *Anas crecca*, Gadwall *Anas strepera*, Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*.

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Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Alde – Ore Estuary

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
England	Suffolk	Classified 04/10/1996

Latitude	Longitude
52 04 58 N	01 33 03 E

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9009112	2416.87



**Component SSSI/** Alde–Ore Estuary  
**ASSIs**

The Alde – Ore Estuary is located on the Suffolk coast in eastern England. It comprises the estuarine complex of the rivers Alde, Butley and Ore, including Havergate Island and Orfordness. There is a variety of habitats including intertidal mud-flats, saltmarsh, vegetated shingle (including the second-largest and best-preserved area in Britain at Orfordness), saline lagoons and semi-intensified grazing marsh. The Orfordness/Shingle Street land form is geomorphologically unique within the UK in combining a shingle spit with a cusped foreland. The diversity of wetland habitat types present is of particular significance to the birds occurring on the site as these provide a range of opportunities for feeding, roosting and nesting within the site complex. At different times of the year, the site supports notable assemblages of wetland birds including seabirds, wildfowl and waders. As well as being an important wintering area for waterbirds, the Alde – Ore Estuary provides important breeding habitat for several species of seabird, wader and raptor. During the breeding season, gulls and terns feed substantially outside the SPA.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

#### *During the breeding season;*

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*, 104 pairs representing at least 17.6% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year mean, 1990–1994)

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*, 48 pairs representing at least 2.0% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 count mean, 1993–4, 1996–8)

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*, 3 pairs representing at least 1.9% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year mean, 1993–1997)

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*, 169 pairs representing at least 1.2% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year mean 1991–1995)

#### *Over winter;*

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*, 766 individuals representing at least 60.3% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*During the breeding season;*

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*, 21,700 pairs representing at least 17.5% of the breeding Western Europe/Mediterranean/Western Africa population (Count as at 1998)

*Over winter;*

Redshank *Tringa totanus*, 1,919 individuals representing at least 1.3% of the wintering Eastern Atlantic – wintering population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

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*Assemblage qualification: A seabird assemblage of international importance*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 seabirds

During the breeding season, the area regularly supports 59,118 individual seabirds (Count period ongoing) including: Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*, Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*, Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*, Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*, Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*.

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*Assemblage qualification: A wetland of international importance.*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 waterfowl

Over winter, the area regularly supports 24,962 individual waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6) including: Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa islandica*, Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*, Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, Shoveler *Anas clypeata*, Teal *Anas crecca*, Wigeon *Anas penelope*, Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*, White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons albifrons*, Redshank *Tringa totanus*, Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*.

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Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Arun Valley

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
England	West Sussex	Classified 03/12/1999

Latitude	Longitude
50 55 05 N	00 31 40 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9020281	528.62



**Component SSSI/ASSIs**      Amberley Wild Brooks  
Pulborough Brooks  
Waltham Brooks

The Arun Valley in West Sussex is located just north of the South Downs escarpment about 15 km inland from the south coast of England. It consists of low-lying grazing marsh, largely on alluvial soils, but with an area of peat derived from a relict raised bog. Variation in soils and water supply lead to a wide range of ecological conditions and hence a rich flora and fauna. Southern parts of the Arun Valley are fed by calcareous springs, while to the north, where the underlying geology is Greensand, the water is more acidic. The history of management of fields, and their water levels, determines the plant communities present, with drier fields dominated by meadow grasses, Crested Dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristatus* and Perennial Rye-grass *Lolium perenne*. In wetter areas, rushes, sedges and Tufted Hair-grass *Deschampsia cespitosa* are more frequent. Ungrazed fields have developed into fen, scrub or woodland. Fen areas consist of Common Reed *Phragmites australis*, Reed Sweet-grass *Glyceria maxima* and Greater Tussock-sedge *Carex paniculata*, often with scattered elder *Sambucus* sp. and willow scrub. On firmer ground, there is Alder *Alnus glutinosa*, Willow *Salix* sp., Birch *Betula* sp., and willow, with Oak *Quercus robur* and Hazel *Corylus avellana* woodland on the driest ground. The ditches and margins between grazing marsh fields have an outstanding aquatic flora and invertebrate fauna. The Arun Valley supports important numbers of wintering waterbirds, which feed in the wetter, low-lying fields and along ditches.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

#### Over winter;

Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*, 115 individuals representing at least 1.6% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean for 1992/93 to 1996/7)

#### Assemblage qualification: A wetland of international importance.

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 waterfowl

Over winter, the area regularly supports 27,241 individual waterfowl (5 year peak mean for 1992/93 to 1996/97) including: Shoveler *Anas clypeata*, Teal *Anas crecca*, Wigeon *Anas penelope*, Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*.

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Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Ashdown Forest

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
England	East Sussex	Classified 11/03/1996

Latitude	Longitude
51 03 44 N	00 04 12 E

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9012181	3207.08



**Component SSSI/** Ashdown Forest  
**ASSIs**

Ashdown Forest is located in the High Weald of East Sussex in south-east England, where valley mires, heath and damp woodland have developed on soils derived from Hastings Sands (Lower Cretaceous). Once a royal hunting forest, reduced grazing has resulted in the accelerated development of woodland and encroachment of bracken over former heath. Nevertheless, some fine examples of heathland habitats remain, with humid or wet heath predominating, dominated by Heather *Calluna vulgaris*, Bell Heather *Erica cinerea* and Cross-leaved Heath *E. tetralix* in the dampest conditions. Where drier heaths occur they are dominated by heather in association with Gorse *Ulex europaeus* and Dwarf Gorse *U. minor*. Streamsides and mires add further variety, with *Sphagnum* mosses, Cottongrass *Eriophorum* sp., Bog Asphodel *Nartheicum ossifragum* and Round-leaved Sundew *Drosera rotundifolia* all characteristic plants. The woodlands are also varied, with Birch *Betula* sp. typically establishing first over heath, followed by Oak *Quercus robur*, Willow *Salix* sp. and Pine *Pinus* sp. in places, eventually forming dense and shaded areas with sparse ground flora. Breeding birds of heath, scrub and woodland are associated with the varied mosaic of their respective habitats, distributed over the higher slopes and valleys of the High Weald.

Together with the nearby Wealden Heaths SPA and Thames Basin Heath SPA, Ashdown Forest forms part of a complex of heathlands in southern England that support breeding bird populations of European importance.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Dartford Warbler *Sylvia undata*, 29 pairs representing at least 1.8% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count as at 1994)

Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*, 35 pairs representing at least 1.0% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Two year mean, 1991 & 1992)

# Avon Valley

## 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
England	Dorset Hampshire	Classified 02/02/1998

Latitude	Longitude
50 47 02 N	01 47 46 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9011091	1385.08



**Component SSSI/** Avon Valley (Bickton to Christchurch)  
**ASSIs**

The Avon Valley SPA encompasses the lower reaches of the River Avon and its floodplain on the south coast of England. The site extends for approximately 20 km between Bickton and Christchurch. The River Avon displays wide fluctuations in water level and parts of the valley are regularly flooded in winter. Consequently, the valley includes one of the largest expanses of unimproved floodplain grassland in Britain, including extensive areas managed as hay meadows and grazing marsh under low-intensity agricultural systems. These extensive floodplain grasslands support wintering Bewick's Swans *Cygnus columbianus bewickii* in numbers of European importance, and Blashford Lakes Gravel Pits within the SPA are particularly important for wintering Gadwall *Anas strepera*.

## 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*Over winter;*

Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*, 135 individuals representing at least 1.9% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*Over winter;*

Gadwall *Anas strepera*, 667 individuals representing at least 2.2% of the wintering Northwestern Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Benacre to Easton Bavents

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
England	Suffolk	Classified 04/10/1996

Latitude	Longitude
52 23 11 N	01 42 37 E

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9009291	516.83



**Component SSSI/ASSIs** Benacre to Easton Bavents

Benacre to Easton Bavents is located on the North Sea coast of East Suffolk, between the coastal towns of Kessingland (to the north) and Southwold (to the south). The coast here is low-lying and consists of shingle beach in the northern part and low cliffs around Easton Bavents and Covehithe. Benacre Broad is a natural brackish lagoon separated from the sea by a shingle bar, reed-fringed on the landward side and then grading into deciduous woodland on the rising ground behind. The smaller Covehithe and Easton Broads have developed similarly, with fringing reedbeds. Elsewhere, grazing marsh fields include unimproved meadows, which are separated by ditches rich in water plants and invertebrates. The area supports important populations of breeding birds, which are particularly associated with reedbed and shingle beach habitats. The reedbeds also support important numbers of Bittern *Botaurus stellaris* in winter. Little Terns *Sterna albifrons* feed substantially outside the SPA in adjacent marine waters.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

#### *During the breeding season;*

Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*, 1 individuals representing at least 5.0% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count as at 1998)

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*, 53 pairs representing at least 2.2% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count as at 1997)

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*, 6 pairs representing at least 3.8% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year mean 1993–1997)

#### *Over winter;*

Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*, 2 individuals representing at least 2.0% of the wintering population in Great Britain (Count, as at 1998)

Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

# Benfleet and Southend Marshes

## 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
England	Essex Southend-on-Sea	Classified 14/02/1994

Latitude	Longitude
51 31 42 N	00 41 00 E

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9009171	2251.31



**Component SSSI/** Benfleet and Southend Marshes  
**ASSIs**

Benfleet and Southend Marshes are located on the north shore of the outer Thames Estuary in southern England. The site comprises an extensive series of saltmarshes, cockle shell banks, mud-flats, and grassland that supports a diverse flora and fauna. The productive mud-flats, cockle shell banks and diverse saltmarsh communities provide a wide range of feeding and roosting opportunities for internationally important numbers of wintering wildfowl and waders.

## 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

### *On passage;*

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, 800 individuals representing at least 1.6% of the Europe/Northern Africa – wintering population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

### *Over winter;*

Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*, 3,819 individuals representing at least 1.3% of the wintering Western Siberia/Western Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*, 3,789 individuals representing at least 2.5% of the wintering Eastern Atlantic – wintering population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Knot *Calidris canutus*, 8,850 individuals representing at least 2.5% of the wintering Northeastern Canada/Greenland/Iceland/Northwestern Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

### *Assemblage qualification: A wetland of international importance.*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 waterfowl

Over winter, the area regularly supports 34,789 individual waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6) including: Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*, Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*, Knot *Calidris canutus*, Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*, Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*.



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Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Blackwater Estuary (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 4)

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
England	Essex	Classified 12/05/1995

Latitude	Longitude
51 45 13 N	00 51 59 E

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9009245	4395.15



**Component SSSI/ASSIs**      Blackwater Estuary

The Blackwater Estuary is located on the coast of Essex in eastern England. It is the largest estuary in Essex and is one of the largest estuarine complexes in East Anglia. Its mud-flats are fringed by saltmarsh on the upper shores, with shingle, shell banks and offshore islands a feature of the tidal flats. The surrounding terrestrial habitats, the sea wall, ancient grazing marsh and its associated fleet and ditch systems, plus semi-improved grassland, are of high conservation interest. The diversity of estuarine habitats results in the sites being of importance for a wide range of overwintering waterbirds, including raptors, geese, ducks and waders. The site is also important in summer for breeding terns.

The Blackwater Estuary is an integral component of the phased Mid-Essex Coast SPA.

The site includes the subsumed SPA of Old Hall Marshes, which was subject to separate classification.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

#### *During the breeding season;*

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*, 36 pairs representing at least 1.5% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count as at 1997)

#### *Over winter;*

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*, 76 individuals representing at least 6.0% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, 7,247 individuals representing at least 2.9% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*, 4 individuals representing up to 0.5% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year mean, 1993/94–94/95, 1996/7–98/99)

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*, 51 individuals representing up to 7.3% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*On passage;*

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, 955 individuals representing up to 1.9% of the Europe/Northern Africa – wintering population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

*Over winter;*

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa islandica*, 1,280 individuals representing up to 1.8% of the wintering Iceland – breeding population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*, 15,392 individuals representing up to 5.1% of the wintering Western Siberia/Western Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*, 33,267 individuals representing up to 2.4% of the wintering Northern Siberia/Europe/Western Africa population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*, 5,090 individuals representing up to 3.4% of the wintering Eastern Atlantic – wintering population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Redshank *Tringa totanus*, 4,015 individuals representing up to 2.7% of the wintering Eastern Atlantic – wintering population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, 600 individuals representing up to 1.2% of the wintering Europe/Northern Africa – wintering population (WeBS/Peter Clement)

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*, 4,594 individuals representing up to 1.5% of the wintering Northwestern Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

*Assemblage qualification: A wetland of international importance.*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 waterfowl

Over winter, the area regularly supports 109,815 individual waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6) including: Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*, Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*, Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*, Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*, Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*, Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*, Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*, Redshank *Tringa totanus*, Curlew *Numenius arquata*, Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*, Wigeon *Anas penelope*, Teal *Anas crecca*, Pintail *Anas acuta*, Shoveler *Anas clypeata*, Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*, Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*, Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa islandica*.

Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

# Bowland Fells

## 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
England	Lancashire	Classified 16/12/1993

Latitude	Longitude
53 59 13 N	02 33 45 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9005151	16002.31



**Component SSSI/ ASSIs** Bowland Fells

The Bowland Fells are an extensive upland area in Lancashire, in north-west England. It forms a western outlier of the Pennines, with summits mostly in the range 450–550 m. The geology is millstone grit-capped fells overlying softer Bowland shales, resulting in predominantly acidic vegetation types. The major habitats are heather-dominated moorland and blanket mire. It is important for its upland breeding birds, especially breeding Merlin *Falco columbarius* and Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*.

## 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*, 13 pairs representing up to 2.6% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Three year mean 1995–1997)

Merlin *Falco columbarius*, 20 pairs representing up to 1.5% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Three year mean, 1994–1996)

This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*During the breeding season;*

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*, 13,900 pairs representing up to 11.2% of the breeding Western Europe/Mediterranean/Western Africa population (Minimum 1998; 13,900–16,300 pairs)

## Breckland

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
England	Suffolk Norfolk	not yet available

Latitude	Longitude
52 30 54 N	00 35 39 E

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9009201	to be confirmed upon site classification.



#### Component SSSI/ ASSIs

Barnham Heath  
 Barnhamcross Common  
 Berner's Heath, Icklingham  
 Bridgham and Brettenham Heaths  
 Cavenham-Icklingham Heaths  
 Cranberry Rough, Hockham  
 Cranwich Camp  
 Deadman's Grave, Icklingham  
 East Wretham Heath  
 Eriswell Low Warren  
 Field Barn Heaths, Hilborough  
 Foxhole Heath, Eriswell  
 Gooderstone Warren  
 Grimes Graves  
 How Hill Track  
 Lakenheath Warren  
 Little Heath, Barnham  
 Old Bodney Camp  
 Rex Graham Reserve  
 Stanford Training Area  
 Thetford Golf Course and Marsh  
 Thetford Heaths  
 Wangford Warren and Carr  
 Weather and Horn Heaths, Eriswell  
 Weeting Heath  
 West Stow Heath  
 Breckland Forest  
 Breckland Farmland

The Breckland of Norfolk and Suffolk lies in the heart of East Anglia on largely sandy soils of glacial origin. In the 19th century the area was termed a sandy waste, with small patches of arable cultivation that were soon abandoned. The continental climate, with low rainfall and free-draining soils, has led to the development of dry heath and grassland communities. Much of Breckland was planted with conifers through the 20th century, and elsewhere arable farming is the predominant land use. The remnants of dry heath and grassland that have survived these changes support heathland-breeding birds, where grazing by sheep and rabbits is sufficiently intensive to create short turf and open ground. These species have also adapted to live in forestry and arable habitats. Woodlark *Lullula arborea* and Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus* breed in recently felled areas and open heath areas within the conifer

plantations, while Stone Curlew *Burhinus oedicanus* establishes nests on open ground provided by arable cultivation in the spring.

## 2. Qualifying species

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This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

### *During the breeding season;*

Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*, 415 pairs representing up to 12.2% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count at 1998)

Stone Curlew *Burhinus oedicanus*, 142 pairs representing up to 74.7% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count as at 1998)

Woodlark *Lullula arborea*, 430 pairs representing up to 28.7% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count as at 1997)

## Breydon Water

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
England	Norfolk	Classified 29/03/1996

Latitude	Longitude
52 35 03 N	01 37 18 E

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9009181	1202.94



**Component SSSI/ASSIs** Breydon Water  
Halvergate Marshes

Breydon Water is located at the extreme east of England on the coast of Norfolk. The site is an inland tidal estuary at the mouth of the River Yare and its confluence with the Rivers Bure and Waveney. It has extensive areas of mud-flats that are exposed at low tide and these form the only tidal flats on the east coast of Norfolk. There are also extensive areas of floodplain grassland adjacent to the intertidal areas. Breydon Water is internationally important for wintering waterbirds, some of which feed in the Broadland SPA that adjoins this site at Halvergate Marshes.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

#### *During the breeding season;*

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*, 155 pairs representing up to 1.3% of the breeding population in Great Britain (4 count mean, 1992–1994 & 1996)

#### *Over winter;*

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*, 33 individuals representing up to 2.6% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*, 391 individuals representing up to 5.6% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, 5,040 individuals representing up to 2.0% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

#### *Assemblage qualification: A wetland of international importance.*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 waterfowl

Over winter, the area regularly supports 43,225 individual waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6) including: Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa islandica*, Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*, Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, Shoveler *Anas clypeata*, Wigeon *Anas penelope*, White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons albifrons*, Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*, Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*, Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*.

Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Broadland

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
England	Suffolk Norfolk	Classified 21/09/1994

Latitude	Longitude
52 43 56 N	01 36 00 E

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9009253	5462.4



#### Component SSSI/ ASSIs

Alderfen Broad  
 Ant Broads and Marshes  
 Barnby Broad and Marshes  
 Broad Fen, Dilham  
 Bure Broads and Marshes  
 Burgh Common and Muckfleet Marshes  
 Calthorpe Broad  
 Cantley Marshes  
 Crostwick Marsh  
 Decoy Carr, Acle  
 Ducans Marsh, Claxton  
 Geldeston Meadows  
 Hall Farm Fen, Hemsby  
 Halvergate Marshes  
 Hardley Flood  
 Limpenhoe Meadows  
 Ludham-Potter Heigham Marshes  
 Poplar Farm Meadows, Langley  
 Priory Meadows, Hickling  
 Shallam Dyke Marshes, Thurne  
 Smallburgh Fen  
 Sprat's Water and Marshes, Carlton Colville  
 Stanley and Alder Carrs, Aldeby  
 Upper Thurne Broads and Marshes  
 Upton Broad and Marshes  
 Yare Broads and Marshes

Broadland is a low-lying wetland complex straddling the boundaries between east Norfolk and northern Suffolk in eastern England. The Broads are a series of flooded medieval peat cuttings. They lie within the floodplains of five principal river systems, known as Broadland. The area includes the river valley systems of the Bure, Yare and Waveney and their major tributaries. The distinctive open landscape comprises a complex and interlinked mosaic of wetland habitats including open water, reedbeds, carr woodland, grazing marsh and fen meadow, forming one of the finest marshland complexes in the UK. The differing types of management of the vegetation for reed, sedge and marsh hay, coupled with variations in hydrology and substrate, support an extremely diverse range of plant communities. The area is of international importance for a variety of wintering and breeding raptors and waterbirds associated with extensive lowland marshes. The estuary at the mouth of Broadland is Breydon Water SPA, and the two sites adjoin each other at Halvergate Marshes. Breeding and wintering raptors, and wintering waterbirds spend time on feeding areas outside the SPA boundary.

## 2. Qualifying species

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This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*, 3 individuals representing up to 15.0% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count as at 1998)

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*, 21 pairs representing up to 13.1% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count as at 1995)

*Over winter;*

Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*, 320 individuals representing up to 4.6% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*, 6 individuals representing up to 6.0% of the wintering population in Great Britain

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*, 22 individuals representing up to 2.9% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1987/8–1991/2)

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*, 96 individuals representing up to 13.7% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 yr peak mean 87/8–91/2)

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*, 133 individuals representing up to 2.4% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 yr peak mean 93/4–97/8)

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This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*Over winter;*

Gadwall *Anas strepera*, 605 individuals representing up to 2.0% of the wintering Northwestern Europe population (RSPB: Count 99/00)

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*, 3,290 individuals representing up to 1.5% of the wintering Eastern Greenland/Iceland/UK population (5 yr peak mean 94/5–98/9)

Shoveler *Anas clypeata*, 401 individuals representing up to 1.0% of the wintering Northwestern/Central Europe population (RSPB: Count 99/00)

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*Assemblage qualification: A wetland of international importance.*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 waterfowl

Over winter, the area regularly supports 22,603 individual waterfowl (RSPB, Count 99/00) including: Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*, Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*, Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*, Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*, Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*, Gadwall *Anas strepera*, Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*, Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*, Coot *Fulica atra*, Bean Goose *Anser fabalis*, White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons albifrons*, Wigeon *Anas penelope*, Teal *Anas crecca*, Pochard *Aythya ferina*, Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*, Shoveler *Anas clypeata*.

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Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Chesil Beach and The Fleet

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
England	Dorset	Classified 17/07/1985

Latitude	Longitude
50 36 40 N	02 31 10 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9010091	748.11



**Component SSSI/ ASSIs** Chesil and The Fleet

Chesil Beach and The Fleet SPA is located on the south coast of England in Dorset. It is a long linear shingle beach (Chesil Bank) enclosing a brackish lagoon (the Fleet). The Fleet is the largest and best example of a barrier-built saline lagoon in the UK and Chesil is one of the three major shingle structures in the UK. The salinity gradient, peculiar hydrographic regime and varied substrates, together with associated reedbed and intertidal habitats and the relative lack of pollution in comparison to most other lagoons, have resulted in the Fleet being extraordinarily rich in wildlife. Outstanding communities of aquatic plants and animals are present, supporting large numbers of wintering waterbirds, including Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*. In spring and summer, Chesil Bank is an important breeding site for Little Terns *Sterna albifrons* which feed in the shallow waters of the lagoon, as well as adjacent waters outside the SPA.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*, 55 pairs representing up to 2.3% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count as at 1997)

This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*Over winter;*

Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*, 3,182 individuals representing up to 1.1% of the wintering Western Siberia/Western Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

# Chew Valley Lake

## 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
England	Bath and North East Somerset	Classified 17/07/1985

Latitude	Longitude
51 20 02 N	02 37 07 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9010041	575.73



**Component SSSI/ ASSIs** Chew Valley Lake

Chew Valley Lake is located south of Bristol in south-west England. It is a large, shallow, artificial reservoir with some fringing reedbeds, carr woodland and grassland. The water conditions are eutrophic and open water plant communities are rather sparse, largely comprising Fennel *Foeniculum vulgare* and Lesser Pondweed *Potamogeton pusillus*, Opposite-leaved Pondweed *Groenlandia densa* and Water-crowfoot *Ranunculus* spp. On neutral soils around the reservoir, Pepper-saxifrage *Silaum silaus*, Burnet-saxifrage *Pimpinella saxifraga* and Devil's-bit Scabious *Succisa pratensis* occur, and on calcareous soils Fairy Flax *Linum catharticum*, Dwarf Thistle *Cirsium acaule* and Salad Burnet *Sanguisorba minor* subsp. *minor* are found. The open water of the reservoir and its margins are of greatest value for wintering waterbirds.

## 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*Over winter;*

Shoveler *Anas clypeata*, 503 individuals representing up to 1.3% of the wintering Northwestern/Central Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Chichester and Langstone Harbours

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
England	City of Portsmouth West Sussex Hampshire	Classified 28/10/1987

Latitude	Longitude
50 48 23 N	00 55 12 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9011011	5810.03



Component SSSI/ ASSIs	Chichester Harbour Langstone Harbour
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Chichester and Langstone Harbours are located on the south coast of England in Hampshire and West Sussex. They are large, sheltered estuarine basins comprising extensive sand- and mud-flats exposed at low tide. The two harbours are joined by a stretch of water that separates Hayling Island from the mainland. Tidal channels drain the basin and penetrate far inland. The mud-flats are rich in invertebrates and also support extensive beds of algae, especially *Enteromorpha* species, and eelgrasses *Zostera* spp. The basin contains a wide range of coastal habitats supporting important plant and animal communities. The site is of particular significance for waterbirds, especially in migration periods and in winter. It also supports important colonies of breeding terns.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

#### *During the breeding season;*

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*, 100 pairs representing up to 4.2% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year mean, 1992–1996)

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*, 158 pairs representing up to 1.1% of the breeding population in Great Britain (1998)

#### *On passage;*

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*, 137 individuals representing up to 17.1% of the population in Great Britain (Count as at 1998)

#### *Over winter;*

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*, 1,692 individuals representing up to 3.2% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*, 100 individuals representing up to 20.0% of the wintering population in Great Britain (Count as at 1998)

This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*On passage;*

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, 2,471 individuals representing up to 4.9% of the Europe/Northern Africa – wintering population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

*Over winter;*

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa islandica*, 1,003 individuals representing up to 1.4% of the wintering Iceland – breeding population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*, 17,119 individuals representing up to 5.7% of the wintering Western Siberia/Western Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*, 44,294 individuals representing up to 3.2% of the wintering Northern Siberia/Europe/Western Africa population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*, 3,825 individuals representing up to 2.5% of the wintering Eastern Atlantic – wintering population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Redshank *Tringa totanus*, 1,788 individuals representing up to 1.2% of the wintering Eastern Atlantic – wintering population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, 846 individuals representing up to 1.7% of the wintering Europe/Northern Africa – wintering population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

*Assemblage qualification: A wetland of international importance.*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 waterfowl

Over winter, the area regularly supports 93,142 individual waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6) including: Wigeon *Anas penelope*, Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*, Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*, Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*, Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*, Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa islandica*, Redshank *Tringa totanus*, Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*, Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*, Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*, Curlew *Numenius arquata*, Teal *Anas crecca*, Pintail *Anas acuta*, Shoveler *Anas clypeata*, Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*, Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*, Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, Knot *Calidris canutus*, Sanderling *Calidris alba*, Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*.

Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Colne Estuary (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 2)

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
England	Essex	Classified 28/07/1994

Latitude	Longitude
51 48 57 N	00 57 36 E

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9009243	2701.43



**Component SSSI/** Colne Estuary  
**ASSIs**

The Colne Estuary is located on the coast of Essex in eastern England. It is a comparatively short and branching estuary, with five tidal arms that flow into the main channel of the River Colne. The estuary has a narrow intertidal zone predominantly composed of flats of fine silt with mud-flat communities typical of south-eastern English estuaries. The estuary is of importance for a range of wintering wildfowl and waders, in addition to breeding Little Tern *Sterna albifrons* which nest on shell, sand and shingle spits. There is a wide variety of coastal habitats which include mud-flat, saltmarsh, grazing marsh, sand and shingle spits, disused gravel pits and reedbeds which provide feeding and roosting opportunities for the large numbers of waterbirds that use the site.

The Colne Estuary is an integral component of the phased Mid-Essex Coast SPA.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

#### *During the breeding season;*

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*, 38 pairs representing at least 1.6% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year mean, 1992–1996)

#### *Over winter;*

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*, 75 individuals representing at least 5.9% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, 2,530 individuals representing at least 1.0% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*, 4 individuals representing at least 0.5% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year mean 1994/95–1998/99)

This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

#### *Over winter;*

Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*, 4,907 individuals representing at least 1.6% of the wintering Western Siberia/Western Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Redshank *Tringa totanus*, 2,077 individuals representing at least 1.4% of the wintering Eastern Atlantic – wintering population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

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*Assemblage qualification: A wetland of international importance.*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 waterfowl

Over winter, the area regularly supports 38,548 individual waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6) including: Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa islandica*, Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*, Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*, Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*, Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*, Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*, Redshank *Tringa totanus*, Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*, Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*.

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Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Coquet Island

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
England	Northumberland	Classified 17/07/1985

Latitude	Longitude
55 20 06 N	01 32 14 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9006031	22.28



**Component SSSI/ASSIs** Coquet Island

Coquet Island is located 1 km off the coast of Northumberland in north-east England. It is a small, flat-topped island with a plateau extent of c. 7 ha. The island is surrounded by low sandstone cliffs and a broad rock platform at low tide, partly the result of former stone quarrying. The peaty soil of the plateau supports short turf grassland, although where nutrient input from seabird colonies is greatest, there are dense stands of taller species, including nettles *Urtica* spp. These provide cover for some of the nesting terns. The island is of importance for a range of breeding seabirds, including four species of terns, auks and gulls. The seabirds feed outside the SPA in the nearby waters, as well as more distantly in the North Sea.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*, 700 pairs representing at least 1.6% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Four count mean, 1993 & 1995–1997)

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*, 740 pairs representing at least 6.0% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year mean, 1993–1997)

Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii*, 31 pairs representing at least 51.7% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year mean, 1993–1997)

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*, 1,590 pairs representing at least 11.4% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year mean, 1993–1997)

This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*During the breeding season;*

Puffin *Fratercula arctica*, 11,400 pairs representing at least 1.3% of the breeding population (1995)

*Assemblage qualification: A seabird assemblage of international importance*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 seabirds

During the breeding season, the area regularly supports 33,448 individual seabirds including: Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*, Puffin *Fratercula arctica*, Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*, Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*, Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii*, Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*.

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Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Crouch and Roach Estuaries (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 3)

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
England	Essex	Classified 29/06/1998

Latitude	Longitude
51 38 23 N	00 43 06 E

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9009244	1735.58



**Component SSSI/ASSIs** Crouch and Roach Estuaries

The Crouch and Roach Estuaries are located on the coast of south Essex in eastern England. The River Crouch occupies a shallow valley between two ridges of London Clay, whilst the River Roach is set predominantly between areas of brick earth and loams with patches of sand and gravel. The intertidal zone along the Rivers Crouch and Roach is ‘squeezed’ between the sea walls along both banks and the river channel. Unlike more extensive estuaries elsewhere in Essex, this leaves a relatively narrow strip of tidal mud which, nonetheless, is used by significant numbers of birds. The site is of importance for wintering waterbirds, especially Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta b. bernicla*.

The Crouch and Roach Estuary is an integral component of the phased Mid-Essex Coast SPA.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*Over winter;*

Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*, 3,074 individuals representing at least 1.0% of the wintering Western Siberia/Western Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

# Deben Estuary

## 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
England	Suffolk	Classified 11/03/1996

Latitude	Longitude
52 02 31 N	01 20 44 E

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9009261	978.93



**Component SSSI/ASSIs**      Deben Estuary

The Deben Estuary is located on the coast of Suffolk in eastern England. It extends south-eastwards for over 12 km from the town of Woodbridge to the sea just north of Felixstowe. It is relatively narrow and sheltered, and has limited amounts of freshwater input. The estuary mouth is the narrowest section and is protected by the presence of shifting sandbanks. The intertidal areas are constrained by sea walls. The saltmarsh and intertidal mud-flats that occupy the majority of the site, however, display the most complete range of saltmarsh community types in Suffolk. The estuary holds a range of swamp communities that fringe the estuary, and occasionally form larger stands. In general, these are dominated by Common Reed *Phragmites australis*. The estuary is of importance for its wintering waterbirds, especially Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*.

## 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*Over winter;*

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*, 95 individuals representing at least 7.5% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Dengie (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 1)

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
England	Essex	Classified 24/03/1994

Latitude	Longitude
51 41 26 N	00 57 34 E

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9009242	3127.23



**Component SSSI/ ASSIs** Dengie

Dengie is located on the coast of Essex in eastern England. It is a large and remote area of tidal mud-flats and saltmarshes at the eastern end of the Dengie peninsula, between the adjacent Blackwater and Crouch Estuaries. The saltmarsh is the largest continuous example of its type in Essex. Foreshore, saltmarsh and beaches support an outstanding assemblage of rare coastal flora. It is of importance for wintering populations of Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*, wildfowl and waders.

Dengie is an integral component of the phased Mid-Essex Coast SPA.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*Over winter;*

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*, 1,156 individuals representing at least 2.2% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*, 5 individuals representing at least 0.7% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year mean 1994/95–1998/99)

This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*Over winter;*

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*, 2,411 individuals representing at least 1.6% of the wintering Eastern Atlantic – wintering population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Knot *Calidris canutus*, 8,393 individuals representing at least 2.4% of the wintering Northeastern Canada/Greenland/Iceland/Northwestern Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

*Assemblage qualification: A wetland of international importance.*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 waterfowl

Over winter, the area regularly supports 31,452 individual waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6) including: Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa islandica*, Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*, Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*, Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*

*bernicla*, Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*, Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*, Knot *Calidris canutus*, Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*, Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*.

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Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Dorset Heathlands

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
England	Bournemouth Hampshire Poole Dorset	Classified 01/10/1998

Latitude	Longitude
50 39 00N	02 09 33W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9010101	8168.79



#### Component SSSI/ ASSIs

Arne  
 Black Hill Heath  
 Blue Pool and Norden Heaths  
 Bourne Valley  
 Brenscombe Heath  
 Canford Heath  
 Christchurch Harbour  
 Corfe and Barrow Hills  
 Cranborne Common  
 Ebblake Bog  
 Ferndown Common  
 Ham Common  
 Hartland Moor  
 Holt and West Moors Heaths  
 Holton and Sandford Heaths  
 Horton Common  
 Hurn Common  
 Lions Hill  
 Matchams  
 Morden Bog and Hyde Heath  
 Norden  
 Oakers Bog  
 Parley Common  
 Poole Harbour  
 Povington and Grange Heaths  
 Rempstone Heaths  
 Slop Bog and Uddens Heath  
 Stoborough and Creech Heaths  
 Stokeford Heaths  
 Studland and Godlingston Heaths  
 Thrashers Heath  
 The Moors  
 Town Common  
 Turbary and Kinson Commons  
 Turners Puddle Heath  
 Upton Heath  
 Verwood Heaths

Warmwell Heath  
Winfrith Heath  
Worgret Heath

The Dorset Heathlands cover an extensive complex of heathland sites at the western edge of the Hampshire Basin in southern England. The area is centred around the large estuary of Poole Harbour and lies in close proximity to the urban conurbation of Bournemouth and Poole. Past losses of the heathland (an estimated 75% during the twentieth century to development, agriculture and afforestation) have left the remaining heaths in a highly fragmented state. Despite this decline and fragmentation, the heaths show a high degree of ecological cohesion. They contain large areas of dry heath, wet heath and acid valley mire, all habitats that are restricted to the Atlantic fringe of Europe. The examples of the Dorset Heathlands are among the best of their type in the UK. There are also transitions to coastal wetlands and floodplain fen habitats. The whole complex has an outstanding fauna in a European context, covering many different taxa. Many species have a specialist ecology, strongly associated with, or restricted to, heathland. The area is ornithologically important for specialist breeding birds of lowland heathland, as well as for some wintering raptors.

## 2. Qualifying species

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This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

### *During the breeding season;*

Dartford Warbler *Sylvia undata*, 418 pairs representing at least 26.1% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Three count mean, 1991–2 & 1994)

Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*, 386 pairs representing at least 11.4% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Two year mean 1991–1992)

Woodlark *Lullula arborea*, 60 pairs representing at least 4.0% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count as at 1997)

### *Over winter;*

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*, 20 individuals representing at least 2.7% of the wintering population in Great Britain (Count, as at 1991/2)

Merlin *Falco columbarius*, 15 individuals representing at least 1.0% of the wintering population in Great Britain (Count, as at 1991/2)

## Duddon Estuary

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
England	Cumbria	Classified 16/03/1998

Latitude	Longitude
54 10 39 N	03 15 24 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9005031	6806.3



**Component SSSI/ASSIs** Duddon Estuary

The Duddon Estuary is located north-west of Morecambe Bay on the coast of Cumbria in north-west England. It is formed where the River Duddon and the smaller Kirkby Pool opens into the Irish Sea. It is a complex site, mostly consisting of intertidal sand and mud-flats, important for large numbers of wintering and passage waterbirds. A range of grazed and ungrazed saltmarsh habitats occurs around the edge of the estuary, especially the sheltered inner section. The site is the most important in Cumbria for sand-dune communities including large areas of calcareous dunes at Sandscale and Haverigg Haws and contrasting acid dunes on North Walney. There are a number of settlements and industrial areas on the periphery of the site. Artificial habitats include slag banks and a flooded iron-ore working known as Hodbarrow Lagoon forms the largest coastal lagoon in north-west England. The intertidal sand- and silt-flats contain abundant invertebrates that support important numbers of wintering waterbirds, especially waders, during the migration and winter periods. Saltmarshes, sand dunes and Hodbarrow Lagoon act as important high-tide roosts for wintering waders and wildfowl. High-tide roosts are also found outside the site boundary on the landward side. The site is also of importance for breeding terns which nest in dune areas and slag banks, and feed in the shallow waters of the estuary and surrounding waters. Hodbarrow Lagoon is a key high-tide roosting site for terns.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

#### *During the breeding season;*

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*, 210 pairs representing at least 1.5% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year mean, 1988–1992)

This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

#### *On passage;*

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, 628 individuals representing at least 1.3% of the Europe/Northern Africa – wintering population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Sanderling *Calidris alba*, 1,055 individuals representing at least 1.1% of the Eastern Atlantic/Western & Southern Africa – wintering population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

*Over winter;*

Knot *Calidris canutus*, 4,495 individuals representing at least 1.3% of the wintering Northeastern Canada/Greenland/Iceland/Northwestern Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Pintail *Anas acuta*, 1,636 individuals representing at least 2.7% of the wintering Northwestern Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Redshank *Tringa totanus*, 2,289 individuals representing at least 1.5% of the wintering Eastern Atlantic – wintering population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

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*Assemblage qualification: A wetland of international importance.*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 waterfowl

Over winter, the area regularly supports 78,415 individual waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6) including: Curlew *Numenius arquata*, Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*, Sanderling *Calidris alba*, Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*, Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*, Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*, Redshank *Tringa totanus*, Knot *Calidris canutus*, Pintail *Anas acuta*.

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Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Dungeness to Pett Level

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
England	East Sussex Kent	Classified 02/08/1999

Latitude	Longitude
50 55 50 N	00 44 59 E

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9012091	1474.04



<b>Component SSSI/ASSIs</b>	Camber Sands and Rye Saltings Dungeness Pett Level Rye Harbour
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Dungeness to Pett Level is located on the south coast of England, on the border of East Sussex and Kent between Hastings and New Romney. This is a large area containing a wide variety of coastal habitats, ranging from shingle beaches through to various types of wetlands and open water. Dungeness is a shingle beach of international importance as a large cusped shingle foreland with a complex pattern of ridges reflecting its accretion and development over hundreds of years. The Open Pits contain a natural succession of wetlands from species-rich fen through to sallow carr. The nearby gravel pits have developed features of interest along their margins, as well as an open water interest, and, together with the Open Pits, are used by important numbers of wintering wildfowl.

Rye Harbour has a smaller shingle beach which, together with the pits at Dungeness, supports breeding terns and gulls. The grazing marshes at Pett Level and Rye Harbour have close-cropped swards grazed by sheep where arable farming has not been introduced and support wintering wildfowl, including Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*. The numerous ditches that intersect these marshes have developed a rich aquatic flora and invertebrate fauna, and provide important habitat for migrating Aquatic Warbler *Acrocephalus paludicola*. Rye Harbour and Camber Sands, and Rye Saltings, include saltmarsh, sand-flats and mud-flats that provide valuable feeding areas for wintering waterbirds. As a whole, the SPA is important for breeding and wintering waterbirds, passage warblers and breeding terns, which feed outside the SPA in nearby shallow waters. Bewick's Swans also feed on arable fields outside the SPA.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*, 266 pairs representing at least 2.2% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year mean, 1993–1997)

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*, 35 pairs representing at least 1.5% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year mean, 1993–1997)

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*, 2 pairs representing at least 20.0% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year mean, 1993–1997)

*On passage;*

Aquatic Warbler *Acrocephalus paludicola*, 30 individuals representing at least 44.8% of the population in Great Britain (Count as at 1997)

*Over winter;*

Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*, 179 individuals representing at least 2.6% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean, 1992/3–1996/7)

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This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*Over winter;*

Shoveler *Anas clypeata*, 419 individuals representing at least 1.0% of the wintering Northwestern/Central Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

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Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## East Devon Heaths

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
England	Devon	Classified 29/06/1998

Latitude	Longitude
50 40 18 N	03 21 32 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9010121	1119.94



**Component SSSI/** East Devon Pebblebed Heaths  
**ASSIs**

The East Devon Heaths are located about 6 km north-east of Exmouth in south-west England. Lying on the acidic Bunter Pebblebeds, these areas form the largest blocks of lowland heath in Devon. The dry heaths on the higher ground are dominated by Heather *Calluna vulgaris*, with frequent areas of Bell Heather *Erica cinerea*, Western Gorse *Ulex gallii*, Bristle Bent *Agrostis vinealis* and Purple Moor-grass *Molinia caerulea*. There has been some invasion by Pine *Pinus* spp. and Birch *Betula pendula*, and Bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* has become locally abundant. In the shallow valleys, wet heaths and mires are dominated by Cross-leaved Heath *Erica tetralix*, Purple Moor-grass, Heather, Dwarf Gorse *Ulex minor* and *Sphagnum* mosses. Characteristic species here include Meadow Thistle *Cirsium dissectum*, Lesser Butterfly-orchid *Platanthera bifolia*, Common Sedge *Carex nigra*, and in the boggiest places, Common Cottongrass *Eriophorum angustifolium*, Bog Asphodel *Narthecium ossifragum* and sundews *Drosera* spp. Patches of willow *Salix* spp. scrub have developed in some places. These heaths support breeding Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus* and Dartford Warbler *Sylvia undata* (which are both dependent upon continuity of open heath with fringing scrub) in numbers of European importance.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Dartford Warbler *Sylvia undata*, 128 pairs representing at least 8.0% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count, as at 1994)

Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*, 83 pairs representing at least 2.4% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count, as at 1992)

## Exe Estuary

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
England	Devon	Classified 11/03/1992

Latitude	Longitude
50 38 50 N	03 26 32 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9010081	2345.71

**Component SSSI/ASSIs**      Dawlish Warren  
Exe Estuary



The Exe Estuary is located in Devon on the English south coast. The site extends 10 km south from Exeter to the open sea at Dawlish Warren. It comprises the waters, foreshore, low-lying land, three saltmarshes and an unusual double spit across the mouth of the estuary, and the sand dunes of Dawlish Warren. The mud- and sand-flats support Eelgrass *Zostera* spp. and *Enteromorpha* beds, and contain an abundance of invertebrates including extensive Mussel *Mytilus edulis* beds, which together provide rich feeding habitats for wintering waders and wildfowl. This complex of coastal habitats supports internationally important numbers of wintering and passage waterbirds.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

#### Over winter;

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*, 359 individuals representing at least 28.3% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*, 20 individuals representing at least 5.0% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1984/85–1988/9)

#### Assemblage qualification: A wetland of international importance.

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 waterfowl

Over winter, the area regularly supports 23,513 individual waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6) including: Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa islandica*, Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*, Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*, Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*, Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*, Wigeon *Anas penelope*, Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*, Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*, Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*, Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*.

Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Farne Islands

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
England	Northumberland	Classified 17/07/1985

Latitude	Longitude
55 37 13 N	01 38 55 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9006021	101.86



**Component SSSI/ ASSIs** Farne Islands

The Farne Islands are a group of low-lying islands between 2–6 km off the coast of Northumberland in north-east England. They form the easternmost outcroppings of the Great Whin Sill of quartz dolerite, and although some islands retain cappings of boulder clay or peaty deposits, vegetation is limited to pioneer communities. Vegetation is further affected by the maritime conditions and large numbers of seabirds. The islands are important as nesting areas for these birds, especially terns, gulls and auks. The seabirds feed outside the SPA in the nearby waters, as well as more distantly in the North Sea.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*, 2,840 pairs representing at least 6.5% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year mean, 1993–1997)

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*, 230 pairs representing at least 1.9% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year mean, 1993–1997)

Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii*, 3 pairs representing at least 5.0% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year mean, 1993–1997)

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*, 2,070 pairs representing at least 14.8% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year mean, 1993–1997)

This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*During the breeding season;*

Guillemot *Uria aalge*, 23,499 pairs representing at least 1.0% of the breeding East Atlantic population (1997)

Puffin *Fratercula arctica*, 34,710 pairs representing at least 3.9% of the breeding population (1996)

*Assemblage qualification: A seabird assemblage of international importance*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 seabirds

During the breeding season, the area regularly supports 142,490 individual seabirds including: Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*, Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*, Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*, Puffin *Fratercula arctica*, Guillemot *Uria aalge*, Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*, Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*, Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii*, Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*.

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Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Flamborough Head and Bempton Cliffs

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
England	East Riding of Yorkshire North Yorkshire	Classified 05/03/1993

Latitude	Longitude
54 07 55 N	00 06 48 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9006101	212.17



**Component SSSI/ ASSIs** Flamborough Head

Flamborough Head is located on the central Yorkshire coast of eastern England. The cliffs project into the North Sea, rising to 135 m at Bempton Cliffs, and exposing a wide section of chalk strata. The cliff-top vegetation comprises maritime grassland vegetation growing alongside species more typical of chalk grassland. The site supports large numbers of breeding seabirds including Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla* and auks, as well as the only mainland-breeding colony of Gannet *Morus bassana* in the UK. The seabirds feed and raft in the waters around the cliffs, outside the SPA, as well as feeding more distantly in the North Sea. The intertidal chalk platforms are also used as roosting sites, particularly at low water and notably by juvenile Kittiwakes.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*During the breeding season;*

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*, 83,370 pairs representing at least 2.6% of the breeding Eastern Atlantic – Breeding population (Count, as at 1987)

*Assemblage qualification: A seabird assemblage of international importance*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 seabirds

During the breeding season, the area regularly supports 305,784 individual seabirds including: Puffin *Fratercula arctica*, Razorbill *Alca torda*, Guillemot *Uria aalge*, Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*, Gannet *Morus bassana*, Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*.

Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Foulness (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 5)

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
England	Essex	Classified 04/10/1996

Latitude	Longitude
51 34 26 N	00 55 17 E

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9009246	10968.9



**Component SSSI/ASSIs** Foulness

Foulness is located on the coast of Essex, on the east coast of England north of the mouth of the Thames estuary. The site is part of an open coast estuarine system comprising grazing marsh, saltmarsh, intertidal mud-flats, cockle-shell banks and sand-flats. It includes one of the three largest continuous sand-silt flats in the UK. The diversity of high quality coastal habitats present support important populations of breeding, migratory and wintering waterbirds, notably very important concentrations of Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*.

Foulness is an integral component of the phased Mid-Essex Coast SPA.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

#### *During the breeding season;*

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*, 46 pairs representing at least 7.8% of the breeding population in Great Britain (RBBP 1996)

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*, 220 pairs representing at least 1.8% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count, as at 1996)

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*, 24 pairs representing at least 1.0% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year mean, 1992–1996)

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*, 320 pairs representing at least 2.3% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year mean, 1992–1996)

#### *Over winter;*

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*, 100 individuals representing at least 7.9% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*, 7,639 individuals representing at least 14.4% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, 3,359 individuals representing at least 1.3% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*, 6 individuals representing at least 0.8% of the wintering population in Great Britain (3 year mean 1994/5–1996/7)

This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*On passage;*

Redshank *Tringa totanus*, 2,144 individuals representing at least 1.2% of the Eastern Atlantic – wintering population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

*Over winter;*

Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*, 13,075 individuals representing at least 4.4% of the wintering Western Siberia/Western Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*, 4,209 individuals representing at least 2.8% of the wintering Eastern Atlantic – wintering population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Knot *Calidris canutus*, 40,429 individuals representing at least 11.6% of the wintering Northeastern Canada/Greenland/Iceland/Northwestern Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*, 11,756 individuals representing at least 1.3% of the wintering Europe & Northern/Western Africa population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

*Assemblage qualification: A wetland of international importance.*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 waterfowl

Over winter, the area regularly supports 107,468 individual waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6) including: Redshank *Tringa totanus*, Curlew *Numenius arquata*, Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa islandica*, Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*, Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, Wigeon *Anas penelope*, Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*, Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*, Knot *Calidris canutus*, Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*, Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*, Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*, Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*, Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*.

Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

# Gibraltar Point

## 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
England	Lincolnshire	Classified 05/03/1993

Latitude	Longitude
53 06 00 N	00 20 16 E

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9008022	414.09



**Component SSSI/ASSIs** Gibraltar Point

Gibraltar Point is located on the Lincolnshire coast in eastern England. It lies north of The Wash and consists of an actively accreting sand-dune system, saltmarsh and extensive intertidal flats. All stages of dune development are represented with the older dunes extensively colonised by scrub. There are also small areas of freshwater marsh and open water. The site accommodates large numbers of overwintering birds and significant colonies of breeding terns. The terns feed outside the SPA in nearby waters. The site is also important for waders during the spring and autumn passage period.

To the south, the coastal habitats of Gibraltar Point SPA are continuous with The Wash SPA, with which area the ecology of this site is intimately linked.

## 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*, 23 pairs representing at least 1.0% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year mean, 1992–1996)

*Over winter;*

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*, 719 individuals representing at least 1.4% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*Over winter;*

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*, 2,017 individuals representing at least 1.3% of the wintering Eastern Atlantic – wintering population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Knot *Calidris canutus*, 10,155 individuals representing at least 2.9% of the wintering Northeastern Canada/Greenland/Iceland/Northwestern Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

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*Assemblage qualification: A wetland of international importance.*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 waterfowl

Over winter, the area regularly supports 22,137 individual waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6) including: Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*, Knot *Calidris canutus*, Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*, Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*.

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Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Great Yarmouth North Denes

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
England	Norfolk	Classified 05/03/1993

Latitude	Longitude
52 44 02 N	01 41 10 E

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9009271	149.19



Component SSSI/ ASSIs	Great Yarmouth North Denes Winterton – Horsey Dunes
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Great Yarmouth North Denes is located on the North Sea coast of Norfolk in East Anglia about 30 km east of Norwich. Behind a wide shingle beach, the North Denes dune system is actively accreting. These low dunes are stabilised by Marram *Ammophila arenaria* and there are extensive areas of Grey Hair-grass *Corynephorus canescens*. The location supports important numbers of breeding Little Tern *Sterna albifrons* that feed outside the SPA in nearby waters.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*, 220 pairs representing at least 9.2% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year mean, 1992–1996)

## Hamford Water

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
England	Essex	Classified 08/06/1993

Latitude	Longitude
51 52 46 N	01 14 29 E

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9009131	2187.21



**Component SSSI/ASSIs** Hamford Water

Hamford Water is located on the Essex coast in eastern England. It is a large, shallow estuarine basin comprising tidal creeks and islands, intertidal mud- and sand-flats, and saltmarsh. The rich invertebrate fauna and sheltered nature of the site results in its importance for internationally important numbers of waterbirds during the passage and winter periods, as well as for breeding terns in summer. The shallow and sheltered nature of the complex provides refuge for waterbirds, especially in periods of severe weather.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

#### *During the breeding season;*

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*, 55 pairs representing at least 2.3% of the breeding population in Great Britain (4 year mean 1992–1995)

#### *Over winter;*

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*, 317 individuals representing at least 25.0% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, 4,118 individuals representing at least 1.6% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*, 53 individuals representing at least 7.6% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

#### *On passage;*

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, 1,572 individuals representing at least 3.1% of the Europe/Northern Africa – wintering population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

#### *Over winter;*

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa islandica*, 1,121 individuals representing at least 1.6% of the wintering Iceland – breeding population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*, 6,892 individuals representing at least 2.3% of the wintering Western Siberia/Western Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)  
Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*, 3,251 individuals representing at least 2.2% of the wintering Eastern Atlantic – wintering population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)  
Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, 520 individuals representing at least 1.0% of the wintering Europe/Northern Africa – wintering population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)  
Teal *Anas crecca*, 4,206 individuals representing at least 1.1% of the wintering Northwestern Europe population

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*Assemblage qualification: A wetland of international importance.*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 waterfowl

Over winter, the area regularly supports 44,461 individual waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6) including: Redshank *Tringa totanus*, Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*, Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, Wigeon *Anas penelope*, Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*, Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa islandica*, Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*, Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, Teal *Anas crecca*, Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*, Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*, Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*.

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Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Holburn Lake and Moss

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
England	Northumberland	Classified 17/07/1985

Latitude	Longitude
55 37 20 N	01 55 09 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9006041	28.03



**Component SSSI/** Holburn Lake and Moss  
**ASSIs**

The SPA of Holburn Lake and Moss is located about 5 km inland from the coast of Northumberland in north-east England. The site comprises part of a lowland raised mire and parts of the adjacent slopes that form its catchment area. The south-western outflow to the mire was dammed in 1934 to create Holburn Lake. The core of the site comprises some 10 ha of largely heather-dominated vegetation, punctuated by wetter hollows that retain a *Sphagnum*-rich flora. There is a small area of poor fen at the eastern end of the lake. The site is of ornithological importance as a roost for the Icelandic population of Greylag Goose *Anser anser*. These birds feed in surrounding agricultural areas outside the SPA, sometimes beyond the immediate surroundings.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*Over winter;*

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*, 2,150 individuals representing at least 2.1% of the wintering Iceland/UK/Ireland population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

# Hornsea Mere

## 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
England	East Riding of Yorkshire	Classified 05/03/1993

Latitude	Longitude
53 54 15 N	00 11 30 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9006171	231.2



**Component SSSI/** Hornsea Mere  
**ASSIs**

LatitudeLongitudeHornsea Mere is the largest freshwater lake in Yorkshire, situated less than 1 km from the sea on the East Yorkshire coast in northern England. It is of glacial origin, shallow (1–2 m deep), eutrophic and fringed with reedbeds, fen and carr. Its shallowness has encouraged the development of extensive marginal swamps of Common Reed *Phragmites australis*, Bulrush *Typha latifolia* and Common Club-rush *Schoenoplectus lacustris*. These are best developed at the west end of the mere, where they grade into Alder *Alnus glutinosa* and willow *Salix* spp. carr. There are also fen communities, rich in plant species, as well as aquatic plants of open water such as Canadian Waterweed *Elodea canadensis*, Fennel Pondweed *Potamogeton pectinatus*, Spiked Water-milfoil *Myriophyllum spicatum*, Rigid Hornwort *Ceratophyllum demersum* and Yellow Water-lily *Nuphar lutea*. Dense algal blooms occur in summer as a result of eutrophication. The reedbeds, swamp communities and wet woodland support a diverse invertebrate fauna. Hornsea Mere supports breeding and wintering waterbirds, which feed on the open water and use the marginal vegetation for feeding and roosting.

## 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*Over winter;*

Gadwall *Anas strepera*, 300 individuals representing at least 1.0% of the wintering Northwestern Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Humber Flats, Marshes and Coast

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
England	East Riding of Yorkshire North Lincolnshire North-east Lincolnshire	Classified 28/07/1994

Latitude	Longitude
53 37 58 N	00 00 39 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9006111	15202.53



**Component SSSI/ASSIs**

Humber Flats and Marshes: Barton and Barrow Clay Pits  
Humber Flats and Marshes: Pyewipe and Cleethorpes Coast  
Humber Flats and Marshes: Spurn Head to Saltend Flats  
Humber Flats and Marshes: The Grues  
Humber Flats and Marshes: Upper Humber  
North Lincolnshire Coast

Humber Flats, Marshes and Coast SPA is located on the east coast of England, and comprises extensive wetland and coastal habitats within the Humber Estuary. The estuary drains a catchment of some 24,240 square kilometres and provides the largest single input of freshwater from Britain into the North Sea. It has the second-highest tidal range in Britain (7.2 m) and approximately one-third of the estuary is exposed as mud- or sand-flats at low tide. The inner estuary supports extensive areas of reedbed with areas of mature and developing saltmarsh backed by grazing marsh in the middle and outer estuary. On the north Lincolnshire coast, the saltmarsh is backed by low sand dunes with marshy slacks and brackish pools. The estuary supports important numbers of waterbirds (especially geese, ducks and waders) during the migration periods and in winter. It also supports important breeding populations of terns and raptors in summer.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

#### *During the breeding season;*

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*, 63 pairs representing at least 2.6% of the breeding population in Great Britain  
Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*, 11 pairs representing at least 6.9% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count as at 1995)

#### *Over winter;*

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*, 1,593 individuals representing at least 3.0% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)  
Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*, 2 individuals representing at least 2.0% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year mean 91/2–95/6)

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, 29,235 individuals representing at least 11.7% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)  
 Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*, 20 individuals representing at least 2.7% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1984/5–1988/9)

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This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*On passage;*

Redshank *Tringa totanus*, 5,212 individuals representing at least 2.9% of the Eastern Atlantic – wintering population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)  
 Sanderling *Calidris alba*, 1,767 individuals representing at least 1.8% of the Eastern Atlantic/Western & Southern Africa – wintering population (2 year mean May 1993–1994)

*Over winter;*

Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*, 23,605 individuals representing at least 1.7% of the wintering Northern Siberia/Europe/Western Africa population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)  
 Knot *Calidris canutus*, 33,848 individuals representing at least 9.7% of the wintering Northeastern Canada/Greenland/Iceland/Northwestern Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)  
 Redshank *Tringa totanus*, 4,452 individuals representing at least 3.0% of the wintering Eastern Atlantic – wintering population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)  
 Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*, 4,083 individuals representing at least 1.4% of the wintering Northwestern Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

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*Assemblage qualification: A wetland of international importance.*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 waterfowl

Over winter, the area regularly supports 187,617 individual waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6) including: Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*, Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*, Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*, Knot *Calidris canutus*, Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*, Redshank *Tringa totanus*, Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*, Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*, Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*, Teal *Anas crecca*, Curlew *Numenius arquata*, Pochard *Aythya ferina*, Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*, Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*, Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*, Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, Sanderling *Calidris alba*, Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa islandica*, Wigeon *Anas penelope*.

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Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Isles of Scilly

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
England	Isles of Scilly	not yet available

Latitude	Longitude
49 55 05 N	06 20 39 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9020288	to be confirmed upon site classification.



#### Component SSSI/ ASSIs

Annet  
 Big Pool and Browarth Point (St Agnes)  
 Castle Down (Tresco)  
 Chapel Down (St Martin's)  
 Eastern Isles  
 Gugh  
 Norrad Rocks  
 Pentle Bay, Merrick and Round Islands  
 Samson (with Green, White, Puffin and Stony Islands)  
 Shipman Head and Shipman Down (Bryher)  
 St Helen's (with Northwethel and Men-a-vaur)  
 Tean  
 Western Rocks  
 White Island (off St Martin's)

The Isles of Scilly form an archipelago of over 200 low-lying granite islands and rocks situated in the South-West Approaches 45 km south-west of Land's End at the extreme south-west of England. The islands included within the SPA support a breeding seabird assemblage of European importance. The isolated nature of the islands and rocks, together with their low levels of disturbance and predation, makes them particularly suitable for nesting seabirds such as Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus* and Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*. It should be noted that the SPA boundary only encompasses those areas used for nesting. The vast majority of the feeding areas used by the seabirds are marine waters outside the SPA.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

#### *During the breeding season;*

Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*, 5,406 pairs representing at least 6.4% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count as at 1999)

This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*During the breeding season;*

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*, 3,608 pairs representing at least 2.9% of the breeding Western Europe/Mediterranean/Western Africa population (Count as at 1999)

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*Assemblage qualification: A seabird assemblage of international importance*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 seabirds

During the breeding season, the area regularly supports 26,616 individual seabirds (Count as at 1999) including: Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*, Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*, Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*, Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*.

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Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Lee Valley

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
England	Hertfordshire Greater London Essex	Classified 22/09/2000

Latitude	Longitude
51 34 05 N	00 02 58 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9012111	447.87



Component SSSI/ ASSIs	Amwell Quarry Rye Meads Turnford and Cheshunt Pits Walthamstow Reservoirs
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The Lee Valley SPA is located to the north-east of London, where a series of wetlands and reservoirs occupy about 20 km of the valley. The site comprises embanked water supply reservoirs, sewage treatment lagoons and former gravel pits that support a range of man-made, semi-natural and valley bottom habitats. These wetland habitats support wintering wildfowl, in particular Gadwall *Anas strepera* and Shoveler *Anas clypeata*, which occur in numbers of European importance. Areas of reedbed within the site also support significant numbers of wintering Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*Over winter;*

Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*, 6 individuals representing at least 6.0% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean, 1992/3–1995/6)

This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*Over winter;*

Gadwall *Anas strepera*, 515 individuals representing at least 1.7% of the wintering Northwestern Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Shoveler *Anas clypeata*, 748 individuals representing at least 1.9% of the wintering Northwestern/Central Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

# Leighton Moss

## 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
England	Lancashire	Classified 28/11/1985

Latitude	Longitude
54 10 03 N	02 47 31 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9005091	128.61



**Component SSSI/ ASSIs**      Leighton Moss

Leighton Moss is situated on the eastern edge of Morecambe Bay in Lancashire in north-west England. The largest reedbed in this region, it was originally a peatbog and was pump-drained and cultivated during the early 1900s and then allowed to revert to reedbed between the First and Second World Wars. As well as the large reedbeds, there are extensive areas of open water, large areas of Tussock-sedge *Carex* spp. and transitional communities through fen to willow *Salix* spp. scrub and woodland. A typical and varied fen flora has developed in part, whilst the reedbed shows all stages of serial transition from open water through to woodland. The base-rich water, which flows into the marsh from the surrounding limestone hills, contributes to an overall richness in the vegetation and associated fauna. The site is of importance for a number of wetland birds, especially Bittern *Botaurus stellaris* and Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*.

## 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*, 4 individuals representing at least 20.0% of the breeding population in Great Britain

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*, 2 pairs representing at least 1.3% of the breeding population in Great Britain

*Over winter;*

Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*, 8 individuals representing at least 8.0% of the wintering population in Great Britain

Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Lindisfarne

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
England	Northumberland	Classified 11/03/1992

Latitude	Longitude
55 40 22 N	01 50 17 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9006011	3679.22



**Component SSSI/** Lindisfarne  
**ASSIs**

Lindisfarne is situated in north-east England off the Northumberland coast near Berwick-upon-Tweed. As well as the island of Lindisfarne (Holy Island), the site includes extensive mud-flats south of Holy Island and at Budle Bay. The area comprises a range of coastal habitats, including rocky shore, sand dunes, saltmarsh and intertidal sand- and mud-flats with extensive beds of Eelgrass *Zostera* spp., an important food source for wintering birds. The site supports internationally important numbers of wintering waterbirds on the flats and saltmarsh. In particular, it is of major international importance in autumn and early winter in holding a high proportion of the Svalbard population of Light-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla hrota*. In summer, the site supports important numbers of several breeding tern species that feed in the shallow waters around the site.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

#### *During the breeding season;*

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*, 38 pairs representing at least 1.6% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count as at 1995)

#### *Over winter;*

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*, 2,946 individuals representing at least 5.6% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, 5,300 individuals representing at least 2.1% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*, 79 individuals representing at least 1.4% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year mean 91/2–95/6)

This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

#### *On passage;*

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, 527 individuals representing at least 1.1% of the Europe/Northern Africa – wintering population (5 year mean 91/2–95/6)

*Over winter;*

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*, 1,570 individuals representing at least 1.0% of the wintering Eastern Atlantic – wintering population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*, 1,416 individuals representing at least 1.4% of the wintering Iceland/UK/Ireland population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Knot *Calidris canutus*, 3,827 individuals representing at least 1.1% of the wintering Northeastern Canada/Greenland/Iceland/Northwestern Europe population (Count as at 91/92–95/96)

Light-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla hrota*, 1,844 individuals representing at least 36.9% of the wintering Svalbard/Denmark/UK population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Wigeon *Anas penelope*, 13,375 individuals representing at least 1.1% of the wintering Western Siberia/Northwestern/Northeastern Europe population (5 year mean 91/2–95/6)

*Assemblage qualification: A wetland of international importance.*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 waterfowl

Over winter, the area regularly supports 41,870 individual waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6) including: Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*, Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*, Greylag Goose *Anser anser*, Light-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla hrota*, Wigeon *Anas penelope*, Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*, Knot *Calidris canutus*, Redshank *Tringa totanus*, Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*, Eider *Somateria mollissima*, Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*, Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*, Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*.

Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Lower Derwent Valley

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
England	East Riding of Yorkshire North Yorkshire	Classified 08/06/1993

Latitude	Longitude
53 53 04 N	00 55 34 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9006092	915.45



Component SSSI/ ASSIs	Brighton Meadows Derwent Ings Melbourne and Thornton Ings Newton Mask River Derwent
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The Lower Derwent Valley is a major floodplain system located in East and North Yorkshire in eastern England. The valley holds a series of neutral alluvial flood meadows, fens, swamps, valley mires, Alder *Alnus glutinosa* woodlands and other freshwater habitats lying adjacent to the River Derwent, Pocklington Canal and The Beck. The Lower Derwent Valley is one of the largest and most important examples of traditionally managed species-rich alluvial flood meadow habitat remaining in the UK. These grasslands, which were formerly widespread in the UK, are now very restricted in distribution due to agricultural intensification. The character and species composition of the grassland, fen and swamp communities is largely controlled by topography, differences in the extent of winter flooding and by the type of agricultural management. The site is of outstanding importance for a diverse range of waterbirds throughout the year. In winter the site supports large numbers of swans, ducks and waders, as well as Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*, whilst in summer the floodplain holds breeding waders, Corncrake *Crex crex* and Spotted Crake *Porzana porzana*.

The SPA also includes the subsumed SPA of Derwent Ings, a site that was subject to separate classification.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Corncrake *Crex crex*, 6 individuals representing at least 1.3% of the breeding population in Great Britain (1998 survey)

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*, 7 individuals representing at least 63.6% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count as at 1998)

Spotted Crake *Porzana porzana*, 31 individuals representing at least 62.0% of the breeding population in Great Britain

*Over winter;*

Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*, 72 individuals representing at least 1.0% of the wintering population in Great Britain

Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*, 3 individuals representing at least 3.0% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1993/4–1998/9)

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, 6,000 individuals representing at least 2.4% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*, 133 individuals representing at least 19.0% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

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This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*Over winter;*

Teal *Anas crecca*, 5,853 individuals representing at least 1.5% of the wintering Northwestern Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

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*Assemblage qualification: A wetland of international importance.*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 waterfowl

Over winter, the area regularly supports 39,936 individual waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6) including: Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, Pochard *Aythya ferina*, Shoveler *Anas clypeata*, Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*, Wigeon *Anas penelope*, Teal *Anas crecca*, Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*, Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*, Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*.

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Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Marazion Marsh

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
England	Cornwall	not yet available

Latitude	Longitude
50 08 04 N	05 28 30 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9020289	to be confirmed upon site classification.



**Component SSSI/ ASSIs** Marazion Marsh

Marazion Marsh is located on the south coast of Cornwall to the east of Penzance at the head of Mounts Bay. The marsh is at the mouth of a wide coastal valley, separated from the sea by a shingle bar with fringing sand dunes. The marsh has developed over Mylor Beds of Lower Devonian age, now overlain by alluvial deposits and peat. Streams, pools and dense reedbed grade into dense willow *Salix* spp. carr, with some unimproved grassland and scrub on the drier margins. Plants include Wavy St John's-wort *Hypericum undulatum*, Yellow Centaury *Cicendia filiformis* and Pillwort *Pilularia globulifera*, and there is a diverse assemblage of breeding dragonflies. The marsh is important for passage and wintering birds associated in particular with the extensive reedbed.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

#### *On passage;*

Aquatic Warbler *Acrocephalus paludicola*, 6 individuals representing at least 9.0% of the population in Great Britain (Count mean 1994–98)

#### *Over winter;*

Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*, 2 individuals representing at least 2.0% of the wintering population in Great Britain

Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Martin Mere

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
England	Lancashire	Classified 28/11/1985

Latitude	Longitude
53 37 24 N	02 52 37 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9005111	119.89



**Component SSSI/ASSIs**      Martin Mere

Martin Mere is located north of Ormskirk in West Lancashire, north-west England. It occupies part of a former lake and mire that extended over some 1,300 ha of the Lancashire Coastal Plain during the 17th century. The complex comprises open water, seasonally flooded marsh and damp, neutral hay meadows overlying deep peat. It includes a wildfowl refuge of international importance, with a large and diverse wintering, passage and breeding bird community. In particular, there are significant wintering populations of Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus bewickii* and Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*, Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus* and Pintail *Anas acuta*. There is considerable movement of wintering birds between this site and the nearby Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*Over winter;*

Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*, 449 individuals representing at least 6.4% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*, 621 individuals representing at least 11.3% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*Over winter;*

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*, 25,779 individuals representing at least 11.5% of the wintering Eastern Greenland/Iceland/UK population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Pintail *Anas acuta*, 978 individuals representing at least 1.6% of the wintering Northwestern Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

*Assemblage qualification: A wetland of international importance.*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 waterfowl

Over winter, the area regularly supports 46,196 individual waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6) including: Pochard *Aythya ferina*, Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*, Teal *Anas crecca*, Wigeon *Anas penelope*, Pintail *Anas acuta*, Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*, Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*, Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*.

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Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Medway Estuary and Marshes

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
England	Medway Kent	Classified 15/12/1993

Latitude	Longitude
51 24 02 N	00 40 38 E

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9012031	4684.36



**Component SSSI/ASSIs**      Medway Estuary and Marshes

The Medway Estuary feeds into and lies on the south side of the outer Thames Estuary in Kent, south-east England. It forms a single tidal system with the Swale and joins the Thames Estuary between the Isle of Grain and Sheerness. It has a complex arrangement of tidal channels, which drain around large islands of saltmarsh and peninsulas of grazing marsh. The mud-flats are rich in invertebrates and also support beds of *Enteromorpha* and some Eelgrass *Zostera* spp. Small shell beaches occur, particularly in the outer part of the estuary. Grazing marshes are present inside the sea walls around the estuary. The complex and diverse mixes of coastal habitats support important numbers of waterbirds throughout the year. In summer, the estuary supports breeding waders and terns, whilst in winter it holds important numbers of geese, ducks, grebes and waders. The site is also of importance during spring and autumn migration periods, especially for waders.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

#### *During the breeding season;*

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*, 28 pairs representing at least 4.7% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year mean, 1988–1992)

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*, 28 pairs representing at least 1.2% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year mean, 1991–1995)

#### *Over winter;*

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*, 314 individuals representing at least 24.7% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

#### *On passage;*

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, 1,337 individuals representing at least 2.7% of the Europe/Northern Africa – wintering population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

*Over winter;*

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa islandica*, 957 individuals representing at least 1.4% of the wintering Iceland – breeding population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)  
 Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*, 3,205 individuals representing at least 1.1% of the wintering Western Siberia/Western Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)  
 Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*, 25,936 individuals representing at least 1.9% of the wintering Northern Siberia/Europe/Western Africa population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)  
 Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*, 3,406 individuals representing at least 2.3% of the wintering Eastern Atlantic – wintering population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)  
 Pintail *Anas acuta*, 697 individuals representing at least 1.2% of the wintering Northwestern Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)  
 Redshank *Tringa totanus*, 3,690 individuals representing at least 2.5% of the wintering Eastern Atlantic – wintering population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)  
 Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, 768 individuals representing at least 1.5% of the wintering Europe/Northern Africa – wintering population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)  
 Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*, 4,465 individuals representing at least 1.5% of the wintering Northwestern Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

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*Assemblage qualification: A wetland of international importance.*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 waterfowl

Over winter, the area regularly supports 65,274 individual waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6) including: Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*, Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*, Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*, Pintail *Anas acuta*, Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*, Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*, Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*, Redshank *Tringa totanus*, Curlew *Numenius arquata*, Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*, Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*, Wigeon *Anas penelope*, Teal *Anas crecca*, Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*, Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa islandica*.

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Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Mersey Estuary

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
England	Halton Wirral Cheshire Liverpool	Classified 20/12/1995

Latitude	Longitude
53 19 39 N	02 53 42 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9005131	5033.14



<b>Component SSSI/ ASSIs</b>	Mersey Estuary New Ferry
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The Mersey Estuary is located on the Irish Sea coast of north-west England. It is a large, sheltered estuary which comprises large areas of saltmarsh and extensive intertidal sand- and mud-flats, with limited areas of brackish marsh, rocky shoreline and boulder clay cliffs, within a rural and industrial environment. The intertidal flats and saltmarshes provide feeding and roosting sites for large populations of waterbirds. During the winter, the site is of major importance for ducks and waders. The site is also important during the spring and autumn migration periods, particularly for wader populations moving along the west coast of Britain.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

#### *Over winter;*

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, 3,070 individuals representing at least 1.2% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

#### *On passage;*

Redshank *Tringa totanus*, 3,516 individuals representing at least 2.0% of the Eastern Atlantic – wintering population (5 year peak mean, 1987–1991)

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, 1,453 individuals representing at least 2.9% of the Europe/Northern Africa – wintering population (Count, as at 1989)

#### *Over winter;*

Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*, 44,300 individuals representing at least 3.2% of the wintering Northern Siberia/Europe/Western Africa population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Pintail *Anas acuta*, 2,744 individuals representing at least 4.6% of the wintering Northwestern Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Redshank *Tringa totanus*, 4,689 individuals representing at least 3.1% of the wintering Eastern Atlantic – wintering population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)  
 Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*, 5,039 individuals representing at least 1.7% of the wintering Northwestern Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)  
 Teal *Anas crecca*, 11,667 individuals representing at least 2.9% of the wintering Northwestern Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

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*Assemblage qualification: A wetland of international importance.*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 waterfowl

Over winter, the area regularly supports 99,467 individual waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6) including: Curlew *Numenius arquata*, Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa islandica*, Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*, Wigeon *Anas penelope*, Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*, Redshank *Tringa totanus*, Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*, Pintail *Anas acuta*, Teal *Anas crecca*, Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*, Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*.

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Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
England	Sefton Wirral	not yet available

Latitude	Longitude
53 25 09 N	03 07 43 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9020287	to be confirmed upon site classification.



Component SSSI/ ASSIs	Mersey Narrows North Wirral Foreshore Not yet confirmed
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The Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore SPA is located on the north-west coast of England at the mouths of the Mersey and Dee estuaries. The site comprises intertidal habitats at Egremont foreshore, man-made lagoons at Seaforth Nature Reserve and the extensive intertidal flats at North Wirral Foreshore. Egremont is most important as a feeding habitat for waders at low tide whilst Seaforth is primarily a high-tide roost site, as well as a nesting site for terns. North Wirral Foreshore supports large numbers of feeding waders at low tide and also includes important high-tide roost sites. The most notable feature of the site is the exceptionally high density of wintering Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*. Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore has clear links in terms of bird movements with the nearby Dee Estuary SPA, Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA, and (to a lesser extent) Mersey Estuary SPA.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

#### Over winter;

Redshank *Tringa totanus*, 1,981 individuals representing at least 1.3% of the wintering Eastern Atlantic – wintering population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*, 1,138 individuals representing at least 1.6% of the wintering Western Palearctic – wintering population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

#### Assemblage qualification: A wetland of international importance.

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 waterfowl

Over winter, the area regularly supports 20,269 individual waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6) including: Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*, Knot *Calidris canutus*, Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*, Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*, Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*, Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*, Redshank *Tringa totanus*.

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Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Minsmere – Walberswick

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
England	Suffolk	Classified 19/05/1992

Latitude	Longitude
52 18 55 N	01 38 02 E

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9009101	2018.92



**Component SSSI/ASSIs** Minsmere – Walberswick Heaths and Marshes

Minsmere – Walberswick is located on the Suffolk coast south of Southwold in eastern England. It comprises two large marshes, the tidal Blyth estuary and associated habitats. This composite coastal site contains a complex mosaic of habitats, notably areas of marsh with dykes, extensive reedbeds, mud-flats, lagoons, shingle, woodland and areas of lowland heath. It supports the largest continuous stand of Common Reed *Phragmites australis* in England and Wales and demonstrates the nationally rare transition in grazing marsh ditch plants from brackish to fresh water. There are nationally important numbers of breeding and wintering birds. In particular, the reedbeds are of major importance for breeding Bittern *Botaurus stellaris* and Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*. A range of breeding waders (e.g. Avocets *Recurvirostra avosetta*) and heathland birds occur in other areas of the SPA. The shingle beaches support important numbers of breeding Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*, which feed substantially outside the SPA in adjacent marine waters. The site is also important for wintering Bitterns and raptors.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

#### *During the breeding season;*

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*, 91 pairs representing at least 15.4% of the breeding population in Great Britain (RBBP 1996)

Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*, 7 individuals representing at least 35.0% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year mean, 1993–1997)

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*, 28 pairs representing at least 1.2% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year mean, 1992–1996)

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*, 16 pairs representing at least 10.0% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year mean, 1993–1997)

Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*, 24 pairs representing at least 0.7% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count, as at 1990)

Woodlark *Lullula arborea*, 20 pairs representing at least 1.3% of the breeding population in Great Britain (RSPB, 5 year mean 95–99)

#### *Over winter;*

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*, 278 individuals representing at least 21.9% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*, 14 individuals representing at least 14.0% of the wintering population in Great Britain (Count as at 1998)

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*, 15 individuals representing at least 2.0% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean, 1985/6–1989/90)

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Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Morecambe Bay

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
England	Lancashire Cumbria	Classified 24/09/1999

Latitude	Longitude
54 07 19 N	02 57 21 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9005081	37404.6



Component SSSI/ ASSIs	Lune Estuary Morecambe Bay Roudsea Wood and Mosses South Walney and Piel Channel Flats Wyre Estuary
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Morecambe Bay is located on the Irish Sea coast of north-west England. It is one of the largest estuarine systems in the UK and is fed by five main river channels (the Leven, Kent, Keer, Lune and Wyre) which drain through the intertidal flats of sand and mud. Mussel *Mytilus edulis* beds and banks of shingle are present, and locally there are stony outcrops. The whole system is dynamic, with shifting channels and phases of erosion and accretion affecting the estuarine deposits and surrounding saltmarshes. The flats contain an abundant invertebrate fauna that supports many of the waterbirds using the bay. The capacity of the bay to support large numbers of birds derives from these rich intertidal food sources together with adjacent freshwater wetlands, fringing saltmarshes and saline lagoons, as well as dock structures and shingle banks that provide secure roosts at high tide. The site is of European importance throughout the year for a wide range of bird species. In summer, areas of shingle and sand hold breeding populations of terns, whilst very large numbers of geese, ducks and waders not only overwinter, but (especially for waders) also use the site in spring and autumn migration periods. The bay is of particular importance during migration periods for waders moving up the west coast of Britain.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

#### *During the breeding season;*

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*, 26 pairs representing at least 1.1% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count, as at 1994)

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*, 290 pairs representing at least 2.1% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean for 1992 to 1996)

#### *Over winter;*

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*, 2,611 individuals representing at least 4.9% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean for 1991/92 to 1995/96)

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, 4,097 individuals representing at least 1.6% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year mean for 1991/92 to 1995/96)

This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*During the breeding season;*

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*, 11,000 pairs representing at least 1.2% of the breeding Northwestern Europe (breeding) and Iceland/Western Europe – breeding population (5 year mean 1992 to 1996)  
 Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*, 22,000 pairs representing at least 17.7% of the breeding Western Europe/Mediterranean/Western Africa population (5 year mean 1992 to 1996)

*On passage;*

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, 693 individuals representing at least 1.4% of the Europe/Northern Africa – wintering population (5 year peak mean for 1991/92 to 1995/96)  
 Sanderling *Calidris alba*, 2,466 individuals representing at least 2.5% of the Eastern Atlantic/Western & Southern Africa – wintering population (Count as at May 1995)

*Over winter;*

Curlew *Numenius arquata*, 13,620 individuals representing at least 3.9% of the wintering Europe – breeding population (5 year peak mean for 1991/92 to 1995/96)  
 Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*, 52,671 individuals representing at least 3.8% of the wintering Northern Siberia/Europe/Western Africa population (5 year peak mean for 1991/92 to 1995/96)  
 Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*, 1,813 individuals representing at least 1.2% of the wintering Eastern Atlantic – wintering population (5 year peak mean for 1991/92 to 1995/96)  
 Knot *Calidris canutus*, 29,426 individuals representing at least 8.4% of the wintering Northeastern Canada/Greenland/Iceland/Northwestern Europe population (5 year peak mean for 1991/92 to 1995/96)  
 Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*, 47,572 individuals representing at least 5.3% of the wintering Europe & Northern/Western Africa population (5 year peak mean for 1991/92 to 1995/96)  
 Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*, 2,475 individuals representing at least 1.1% of the wintering Eastern Greenland/Iceland/UK population (5 year peak mean for 1991/92 to 1995/96)  
 Pintail *Anas acuta*, 2,804 individuals representing at least 4.7% of the wintering Northwestern Europe population (5 year peak mean for 1991/92 to 1995/96)  
 Redshank *Tringa totanus*, 6,336 individuals representing at least 4.2% of the wintering Eastern Atlantic – wintering population (5 year peak mean for 1989/90 to 1993/94)  
 Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*, 6,372 individuals representing at least 2.1% of the wintering Northwestern Europe population (5 year peak mean for 1991/92 to 1995/96)  
 Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*, 1,583 individuals representing at least 2.3% of the wintering Western Palearctic – wintering population (5 year peak mean for 1991/92 to 1995/96)

*Assemblage qualification: A seabird assemblage of international importance*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 seabirds

During the breeding season, the area regularly supports 61,858 individual seabirds (5 year peak mean for 1991/92 to 1995/96) including: Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*, Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*, Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*, Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*.

*Assemblage qualification: A wetland of international importance.*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 waterfowl

Over winter, the area regularly supports 210,668 individual waterfowl (5 year peak mean for 1991/92 to 1995/96) including: Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*, Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*, Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*, Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*, Pintail *Anas acuta*, Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*, Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*, Knot *Calidris canutus*, Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*, Curlew *Numenius arquata*, Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*, Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa islandica*, Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*, Wigeon *Anas penelope*, Teal *Anas crecca*, Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*, Eider *Somateria mollissima*, Goldeneye

*Bucephala clangula*, Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*, Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, Sanderling *Calidris alba*, Redshank *Tringa totanus*.

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Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Nene Washes

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
England	City of Peterborough Cambridgeshire	Classified 05/03/1993

Latitude	Longitude
52 34 41 N	00 04 33 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9008031	1517.49



**Component SSSI/ASSIs** Nene Washes (Whittlesey)

The Nene Washes are located in eastern England on one of the major tributary rivers of The Wash. It is an extensive area of seasonally flooding wet grassland ('washland') lying along the River Nene. The cycle of winter storage of floodwaters from the river and traditional summer grazing by cattle have given rise to a mosaic of rough grassland and wet pasture, with a diverse ditch flora. Areas of arable cropping provide some winter feeding areas for wildfowl. In summer, it is of importance for breeding waders, as well as Spotted Crake *Porzana porzana*, whilst in winter the site holds large numbers of waders and wildfowl. During severe winter weather elsewhere the site can attract waterbirds from other areas due to its relatively mild climate (compared with continental Europe) and abundant food resources. Likewise, the site can act as a refuge for wildfowl displaced by deep flooding of the nearby Ouse Washes SPA. In winter, some wildfowl, especially Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*, feed in surrounding areas of agricultural land outside the SPA.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

#### *During the breeding season;*

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*, 1 individuals representing at least 9.1% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count as at 1993)

Spotted Crake *Porzana porzana*, 5 individuals representing at least 10.0% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5–11 males = minimum)

#### *Over winter;*

Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*, 1,718 individuals representing at least 24.5% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*, 91 individuals representing at least 13.0% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*During the breeding season;*

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa limosa*, 16 pairs representing <0.1% of the breeding Western Europe/W Africa population (Count, as at 1992)

*Over winter;*

Pintail *Anas acuta*, 1,435 individuals representing at least 2.4% of the wintering Northwestern Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Shoveler *Anas clypeata*, 413 individuals representing at least 1.0% of the wintering Northwestern/Central Europe population

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*Assemblage qualification: A wetland of international importance.*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 waterfowl

Over winter, the area regularly supports 25,437 individual waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6) including: Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa islandica*, Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, Pochard *Aythya ferina*, Teal *Anas crecca*, Gadwall *Anas strepera*, Wigeon *Anas penelope*, Shoveler *Anas clypeata*, Pintail *Anas acuta*, Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*, Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*.

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Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## New Forest

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
England	Hampshire Wiltshire	Classified 22/09/1993

Latitude	Longitude
50 49 32 N	01 39 22 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9011031	28002.81



**Component SSSI/** New Forest  
**ASSIs**

The New Forest is located in southern Hampshire, west of the Solent in southern England. It comprises a complex mosaic of habitats overlying mainly nutrient-poor soils over plateau gravels. The major components are the extensive wet and dry heaths with their rich valley mires and associated wet and dry grasslands, the ancient pasture woodlands and inclosure woodlands, the network of clean rivers and streams, and frequent permanent and temporary ponds. The area supports important populations of breeding birds associated with such habitats, including Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*, Woodlark *Lullula arborea* and Dartford Warbler *Sylvia undata*. Breeding Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus* and wintering Hen Harriers *Circus cyaneus* are also notable.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

#### *During the breeding season;*

Dartford Warbler *Sylvia undata*, 538 pairs representing at least 33.6% of the breeding population in Great Britain

Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*, 2 pairs representing at least 10.0% of the breeding population in Great Britain

Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*, 300 pairs representing at least 8.8% of the breeding population in Great Britain

Woodlark *Lullula arborea*, 184 pairs representing at least 12.3% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count as at 1997)

#### *Over winter;*

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*, 15 individuals representing at least 2.0% of the wintering population in Great Britain

## North Norfolk Coast

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
England	Norfolk	Classified 20/01/1989

Latitude	Longitude
52 58 13 N	00 35 55 E

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9009031	7886.79



**Component SSSI/** North Norfolk Coast  
**ASSIs**

The North Norfolk Coast SPA encompasses much of the northern coastline of Norfolk in eastern England. It is a low-lying barrier coast that extends for 40 km from Holme to Weybourne and includes a great variety of coastal habitats. The main habitats – found along the whole coastline – include extensive intertidal sand- and mud-flats, saltmarshes, shingle and sand dunes, together with areas of freshwater grazing marsh and reedbed, which has developed in front of rising land. The site contains some of the best examples of saltmarsh in Europe. There are extensive deposits of shingle at Blakeney Point, and major sand dunes at Scolt Head. Extensive reedbeds are found at Brancaster, Cley and Titchwell. Maritime pasture is present at Cley and extensive areas of grazing marsh are present all along the coast. The grazing marsh at Holkham has a network of clear water dykes holding a rich diversity of aquatic plant species. The great diversity of high-quality freshwater, intertidal and marine habitats results in very large numbers of waterbirds occurring throughout the year. In summer, the site holds large breeding populations of waders, four species of terns, Bittern *Botaurus stellaris* and wetland raptors such as Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*. In winter, the coast is used by very large numbers of geese, sea-ducks, other ducks and waders. The coast is also of major importance for staging waterbirds in the spring and autumn migration periods. Breeding terns, particularly Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*, and wintering sea-ducks regularly feed outside the SPA in adjacent coastal waters.

To the west, the coastal habitats of North Norfolk Coast SPA are continuous with The Wash SPA, with which area the ecology of this site is intimately linked.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*, 177 pairs representing at least 30.0% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count as at 1998)

Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*, 3 individuals representing at least 15.0% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count as at 1998)

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*, 460 pairs representing at least 3.7% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count, as at 1996)

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*, 377 pairs representing at least 15.7% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year mean 1994–1998)

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*, 14 pairs representing at least 8.8% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count as at 1995)  
 Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*, 2 pairs representing at least 20.0% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count as at 1996)  
 Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii*, 2 pairs representing at least 3.3% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year mean 1994–1998)  
 Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*, 3,457 pairs representing at least 24.7% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year mean 1994–1998)

*Over winter;*

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*, 153 individuals representing at least 12.0% of the wintering population in Great Britain (Count as at 1997/8)  
 Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*, 1,236 individuals representing at least 2.3% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)  
 Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*, 5 individuals representing at least 5.0% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1993/4–1998/9)  
 Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, 2,667 individuals representing at least 1.1% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)  
 Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*, 16 individuals representing at least 2.1% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year mean 1993/4–1997/8)  
 Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*, 54 individuals representing at least 7.7% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1993/4–1998/9)

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This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*During the breeding season;*

Redshank *Tringa totanus*, 700 pairs representing at least 1.2% of the breeding Eastern Atlantic – wintering population (Count as at 1998)  
 Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, 220 pairs representing at least 1.4% of the breeding Europe/Northern Africa – wintering population (Count as at 1998)

*On passage;*

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, 1,256 individuals representing at least 2.5% of the Europe/Northern Africa – wintering population (5 year peak mean 1994/5–1998/9)

*Over winter;*

Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*, 11,512 individuals representing at least 3.8% of the wintering Western Siberia/Western Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)  
 Knot *Calidris canutus*, 10,801 individuals representing at least 3.1% of the wintering Northeastern Canada/Greenland/Iceland/Northwestern Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)  
 Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*, 23,802 individuals representing at least 10.6% of the wintering Eastern Greenland/Iceland/UK population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)  
 Pintail *Anas acuta*, 1,139 individuals representing at least 1.9% of the wintering Northwestern Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)  
 Redshank *Tringa totanus*, 2,998 individuals representing at least 2.0% of the wintering Eastern Atlantic – wintering population (5 year peak mean 1993/4–1997/8)  
 Wigeon *Anas penelope*, 14,039 individuals representing at least 1.1% of the wintering Western Siberia/Northwestern/Northeastern Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

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*Assemblage qualification: A wetland of international importance.*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 waterfowl

Over winter, the area regularly supports 91,249 individual waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6) including: Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*, Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*, Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*, Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*, Pink-footed Goose *Anser*

*brachyrhynchus*, Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*, Wigeon *Anas penelope*, Pintail *Anas acuta*, Knot *Calidris canutus*, Redshank *Tringa totanus*, Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*, White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons albifrons*, Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*, Gadwall *Anas strepera*, Teal *Anas crecca*, Shoveler *Anas clypeata*, Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*, Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*, Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*, Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*, Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, Sanderling *Calidris alba*, Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*.

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Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## North Pennine Moors

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
England	Durham North Yorkshire Northumberland Cumbria	Classified 09/02/2001

Latitude	Longitude
54 39 24 N	02 14 49 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9006272	147246.41



Component SSSI/ ASSIs	
	Allendale Moors
	Appleby Fells
	Arkengarthdale, Gunnerside and Reeth Moors
	Bollihope, Pikestone, Eggleston and Woodland Fells
	Bowes Moor
	Cotherstone Moor
	East Nidderdale Moors (Flamstone Pin–High Ruckles)
	Geltsdale and Glendue Fells
	Hexhamshire Moors
	Lovely Sea–Stainton Moor
	Lune Forest
	Mallerstang and Swaledale Head
	Moor House and Cross Fell
	Muggleswick, Stanhope and Edmundbyers Commons and Blanchland Moor
	Upper Teesdale
	West Nidderdale, Barden and Blubberhouses Mooors
	Whitfield Moor, Plenmeller and Ashholme Commons

The North Pennine Moors SPA is situated in Cumbria, County Durham, Northumberland and North Yorkshire and includes parts of the moorland massif between the Tyne Gap (Hexham) and the Ribble-Aire corridor (Skipton). It encompasses extensive tracts of semi-natural moorland habitats. The site is of European importance for several upland breeding species, including birds of prey and waders. The southern end of the SPA is within 10 km of the South Pennine Moors SPA which supports a similar assemblage of upland breeding species. North Pennine Moors subsumes Moor House SPA, a site subject to separate classification.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, 1,400 pairs representing at least 6.2% of the breeding population in Great Britain

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*, 11 pairs representing at least 2.2% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Estimated population)

Merlin *Falco columbarius*, 136 pairs representing at least 10.5% of the breeding population in Great Britain

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*, 15 pairs representing at least 1.3% of the breeding population in Great Britain

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This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*During the breeding season;*

Curlew *Numenius arquata*, 3,930 pairs representing at least 3.3% of the breeding Europe – breeding population (1992/3/4 survey)

Dunlin *Calidris alpina schinzii*, 330 pairs representing at least 3.0% of the breeding Baltic/UK/Ireland population (Estimate based on 92–94 counts)

## North York Moors

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
England	Redcar and Cleveland North Yorkshire	Classified 12/05/2000

Latitude	Longitude
54 23 43 N	00 53 01 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9006161	44087.68



**Component SSSI/** North York Moors  
**ASSIs**

The North York Moors are located in north-east England, to the south-east of Middlesbrough. This is a predominantly upland area, dominated by open heather moorland, intersected by long valleys largely orientated north-west to south-east, which contain valley mires, pastures and fringing deciduous or conifer woodlands. The area is considerably drier than the Pennine Moors to the west and this influences the character of the moorland and heaths that have developed on peaty soils. These areas are mostly managed for grouse by rotational burning and with extensive sheep grazing. Bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* has become dominant over extensive areas that were formerly dominated by ericaceous species. There are boggy flushes with rushes and valley mires with *Sphagnum* mosses, sedges *Carex* spp. and other plants characteristic of fens and bogs. The moors are important for breeding upland birds, notably raptors utilising the varied conditions from high moorland down to the valley sides and bottoms, and for breeding waders.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, 526 pairs representing at least 2.3% of the breeding population in Great Britain

Merlin *Falco columbarius*, 40 pairs representing at least 3.1% of the breeding population in Great Britain

# Northumbria Coast

## 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
England	Durham North Tyneside Northumberland Sunderland South Tyneside	Classified 02/02/2000

Latitude	Longitude
55 27 59 N	01 35 18 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9006131	1107.98



Component SSSI/ ASSIs	Durham Coast Lindisfarne Newton Links Northumberland Shore
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The Northumbria Coast SPA includes much of the coastline between the Tweed and Tees Estuaries in north-east England. The site consists of mainly discrete sections of rocky shore with associated boulder and cobble beaches. The SPA also includes parts of three artificial pier structures and a small section of sandy beach. In summer, the site supports important numbers of breeding Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*, whilst in winter the mixture of rocky and sandy shore supports large number of Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* and Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*.

## 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*, 40 pairs representing at least 1.7% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*Over winter;*

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*, 763 individuals representing at least 1.5% of the wintering Eastern Atlantic – wintering population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*, 1,456 individuals representing at least 2.1% of the wintering Western Palearctic – wintering population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Ouse Washes

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
England	Norfolk Cambridgeshire	Classified 05/03/1993

Latitude	Longitude
52 28 34 N	00 12 19 E

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9008041	2447.26



**Component SSSI/** Ouse Washes  
**ASSIs**

The Ouse Washes are located in eastern England on one of the major tributary rivers of The Wash. It is an extensive area of seasonally flooding wet grassland ('washland') lying between the Old and New Bedford Rivers, and acts as a floodwater storage system during winter months. The cycle of winter storage of floodwaters from the river and traditional summer grazing by cattle, as well as hay production, have given rise to a mosaic of rough grassland and wet pasture, with a diverse and rich ditch fauna and flora. The washlands support both breeding and wintering waterbirds. In summer, there are important breeding numbers of several wader species, as well as Spotted Crake *Porzana porzana*. In winter, the site holds very large numbers of swans, ducks and waders. During severe winter weather elsewhere, the Ouse Washes can attract waterbirds from other areas due to its relatively mild climate (compared with continental Europe) and abundant food resources. In winter, some wildfowl, especially swans, feed on agricultural land surrounding the SPA.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

#### *During the breeding season;*

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*, 1 individuals representing at least 9.1% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year mean 1983–1987)

Spotted Crake *Porzana porzana*, 3 individuals representing at least 6.0% of the breeding population in Great Britain (3–4 males = minimum)

#### *Over winter;*

Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*, 4,639 individuals representing at least 66.3% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*, 12 individuals representing at least 1.6% of the wintering population in Great Britain (6 year mean, 1982–1987)

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*, 137 individuals representing at least 19.6% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*, 963 individuals representing at least 17.5% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*During the breeding season;*

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa limosa*, 26 pairs representing <0.1% of the breeding Western Europe/W Africa population (Count, as at late 1980s-early 1990s)

Gadwall *Anas strepera*, 111 pairs representing at least 1.1% of the breeding Northwestern Europe population

Shoveler *Anas clypeata*, 155 pairs representing at least 1.2% of the breeding Northwestern/Central Europe population (Count, as at late 1980s-early 1990s)

*Over winter;*

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa islandica*, 1,198 individuals representing at least 1.7% of the wintering Iceland – breeding population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Gadwall *Anas strepera*, 342 individuals representing at least 1.1% of the wintering Northwestern Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Pintail *Anas acuta*, 1,755 individuals representing at least 2.9% of the wintering Northwestern Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Pochard *Aythya ferina*, 3,590 individuals representing at least 1.0% of the wintering Northwestern/Northeastern Europe population

Shoveler *Anas clypeata*, 681 individuals representing at least 1.7% of the wintering Northwestern/Central Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Wigeon *Anas penelope*, 29,713 individuals representing at least 2.4% of the wintering Western Siberia/Northwestern/Northeastern Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

*Assemblage qualification: A wetland of international importance.*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 waterfowl

Over winter, the area regularly supports 64,392 individual waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6) including: Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, Coot *Fulica atra*, Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*, Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*, Teal *Anas crecca*, Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*, Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa islandica*, Pochard *Aythya ferina*, Shoveler *Anas clypeata*, Pintail *Anas acuta*, Gadwall *Anas strepera*, Wigeon *Anas penelope*, Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*, Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*, Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*.

Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Pagham Harbour

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
England	West Sussex	Classified 30/03/1988

Latitude	Longitude
50 45 48 N	00 45 38 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9012041	636.68



**Component SSSI/** Pagham Harbour  
**ASSIs**

Pagham Harbour is located on the south coast of England in West Sussex. It is an estuarine basin that comprises an extensive central area of saltmarsh and intertidal mud-flats, surrounded by lagoons, shingle, open water, reed swamp and wet permanent grassland. The mud-flats are rich in invertebrates and algae, and provide important feeding areas for birds. The lower saltmarsh is dominated by Common Cord-grass *Spartina anglica*, with patches of Glasswort *Salicornia* spp. The area supports breeding Little Tern *Sterna albifrons* in summer, as well as wintering concentrations of Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* and Pintail *Anas acuta*.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*, 12 pairs representing 0.5% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count as at 1995)

*Over winter;*

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*, 160 individuals representing at least 22.9% of the wintering population in Great Britain

This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*Over winter;*

Pintail *Anas acuta*, 628 individuals representing at least 1.0% of the wintering Northwestern Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

# Poole Harbour

## 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
England	Poole Dorset	Classified 31/03/1999

Latitude	Longitude
50 40 52 N	02 01 34 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9010111	2271.99



Component SSSI/ ASSIs	Arne Holton and Sandford Heaths Poole Harbour Studland and Godlingston Heaths The Moors Wareham Meadows
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Poole Harbour is a bar-built estuary of nearly 4,000 ha located on the coast of Dorset in southern England. The Harbour occupies a shallow depression towards the south-western extremity of the Hampshire Basin which has flooded over the last 5,000 years as a result of rising sea levels. The unusual micro-tidal regime means that a significant body of water is retained throughout the tidal cycle. The Harbour therefore exhibits many of the characteristics of a lagoon. There are extensive intertidal mud-flats and, away from the north shore that has become urbanised through the growth of the town of Poole, there are fringes of saltmarsh and reedbed. As a whole, the Harbour supports important numbers of waterbirds in winter and is also an important breeding site for terns and gulls, whilst significant numbers of Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* and Aquatic Warbler *Acrocephalus paludicola* occur on passage. Several river valleys converge on the Harbour, notably the Frome and the Piddle, and these support grazing marsh that contribute to the importance of the SPA for wintering waterbirds. Parts of the Harbour, especially along the western and southern shores, adjoin the Dorset Heathlands SPA. Where the two areas meet, there are unusual transitions from saltmarsh and reedbed to valley mire and heath habitats. The Harbour is separated from Poole Bay by the Studland Dunes (part of the Dorset Heaths [Purbeck and Wareham] and Studland Dunes SAC) and the SPA includes Littlesea, a large oligotrophic dune-slack lake of importance for wintering wildfowl.

## 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*, 155 pairs representing at least 1.3% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year mean 1993–1997)

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*, 5 pairs representing at least 50.0% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year mean 1993–1997)

*On passage;*

Aquatic Warbler *Acrocephalus paludicola*, 11 individuals representing at least 16.4% of the population in Great Britain (Count as at 1997)

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*, 107 individuals representing at least 13.4% of the population in Great Britain (Count as at 1998)

*Over winter;*

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*, 459 individuals representing at least 36.1% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1992/3–1996/7)

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*, 83 individuals representing at least 16.6% of the wintering population in Great Britain (Count as at 1998)

This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*Over winter;*

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa islandica*, 1,576 individuals representing at least 2.3% of the wintering Iceland – breeding population (5 year peak mean 1992/3–1996/7)

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*, 3,569 individuals representing at least 1.2% of the wintering Northwestern Europe population (4 year peak mean 1993/4–1996/7)

*Assemblage qualification: A wetland of international importance.*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 waterfowl

Over winter, the area regularly supports 28,426 individual waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6) including: Redshank *Tringa totanus*, Curlew *Numenius arquata*, Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*, Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*, Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*, Pochard *Aythya ferina*, Shoveler *Anas clypeata*, Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*, Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*, Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa islandica*, Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*, Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*, Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*.

Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Porton Down

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### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
England	Hampshire Wiltshire	Classified 03/07/1992

Latitude	Longitude
51 07 45 N	01 39 15 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9011101	1237.04



**Component SSSI/** Porton Down  
**ASSIs**

Porton Down is situated on the Hampshire-Wiltshire border in the Test Valley and Salisbury districts of southern England. It consists of an extensive area of chalk grassland with scrub and woodland, and is one of the largest uninterrupted tracts of semi-natural chalk grassland in the UK. It is important for downland breeding birds and supports important numbers of Stone Curlew *Burhinus oedicephalus*.

### 2. Qualifying species

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This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Stone Curlew *Burhinus oedicephalus*, 20 pairs representing at least 10.5% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count mean (1995–99))

## Portsmouth Harbour

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
England	City of Portsmouth Hampshire	Classified 28/02/1995

Latitude	Longitude
50 49 41 N	01 07 32 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9011051	1248.77



**Component SSSI/** Portsmouth Harbour  
**ASSIs**

Portsmouth Harbour is located on the central south coast of England. It is a large industrialised estuary and includes one of the four largest expanses of mud-flats and tidal creeks on the south coast of Britain. The mud-flats support large beds of Narrow-leaved Eelgrass *Zostera angustifolia* and Dwarf Eelgrass *Z. noltii*, extensive green algae beds, mainly *Enteromorpha* species, and Sea Lettuce *Ulva lactuca*. Portsmouth Harbour has only a narrow connection to the sea via the Solent, and receives comparatively little fresh water, thus giving it an unusual hydrology. The site supports important numbers of wintering Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta b. bernicla*, which feed also in surrounding agricultural areas away from the SPA.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*Over winter;*

Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*, 2,847 individuals representing at least 0.9% of the wintering Western Siberia/Western Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

# Ribble and Alt Estuaries

## 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
England	Lancashire Sefton	Classified 16/02/1995

Latitude	Longitude
53 42 20 N	02 59 14 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9005103	12361.13



**Component SSSI/  
ASSIs** Ribble Estuary  
Sefton Coast

The Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA lies on the coast of Lancashire and Merseyside in north-west England. It comprises two estuaries, of which the Ribble Estuary is by far the larger, together with an extensive area of sandy foreshore along the Sefton Coast. It forms part of the chain of western SPAs that fringe the Irish Sea. There is considerable interchange in the movements of wintering birds between this site and Morecambe Bay, the Mersey Estuary, the Dee Estuary and Martin Mere. A large proportion of the SPA is within the Ribble Estuary National Nature Reserve. The site consists of extensive sand- and mud-flats and, particularly in the Ribble Estuary, large areas of saltmarsh. There are also areas of coastal grazing marsh located behind the sea embankments. The intertidal flats are rich in invertebrates, on which waders and some of the wildfowl feed. The highest densities of feeding birds are on the muddier substrates of the Ribble, though sandy shores throughout are also used. The saltmarshes and coastal grazing marshes support high densities of grazing and seed-eating wildfowl and these, together with the intertidal sand- and mud-flats, are used as high-tide roosts. Important populations of waterbirds occur in winter, including swans, geese, ducks and waders. The SPA is also of major importance during the spring and autumn migration periods, especially for wader populations moving along the west coast of Britain. The larger expanses of saltmarsh and areas of coastal grazing marsh support breeding birds during the summer, including large concentrations of gulls and terns. These seabirds feed both offshore and inland, outside the SPA. Several species of waterbirds (notably Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*) utilise feeding areas on agricultural land outside the SPA boundary.

## 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

### *During the breeding season;*

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*, 182 pairs representing at least 1.5% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count, as at 1996)

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*, 1 pairs representing at least 9.1% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count as at late 1980's)

### *Over winter;*

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*, 18,958 individuals representing at least 35.8% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*, 229 individuals representing at least 3.3% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)  
 Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, 4,277 individuals representing at least 1.7% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)  
 Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*, 159 individuals representing at least 2.9% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

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This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*During the breeding season;*

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*, 1,800 pairs representing at least 1.5% of the breeding Western Europe/Mediterranean/Western Africa population (Count, as at 1993)

*On passage;*

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, 995 individuals representing at least 2.0% of the Europe/Northern Africa – wintering population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)  
 Sanderling *Calidris alba*, 6,172 individuals representing at least 6.2% of the Eastern Atlantic/Western & Southern Africa – wintering population (3 year mean May 1993–1995)

*Over winter;*

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa islandica*, 819 individuals representing at least 1.2% of the wintering Iceland – breeding population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)  
 Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*, 39,952 individuals representing at least 2.9% of the wintering Northern Siberia/Europe/Western Africa population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)  
 Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*, 6,073 individuals representing at least 4.0% of the wintering Eastern Atlantic – wintering population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)  
 Knot *Calidris canutus*, 57,865 individuals representing at least 16.5% of the wintering Northeastern Canada/Greenland/Iceland/Northwestern Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)  
 Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*, 16,159 individuals representing at least 1.8% of the wintering Europe & Northern/Western Africa population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)  
 Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*, 23,860 individuals representing at least 10.6% of the wintering Eastern Greenland/Iceland/UK population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)  
 Pintail *Anas acuta*, 3,333 individuals representing at least 5.6% of the wintering Northwestern Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)  
 Redshank *Tringa totanus*, 2,708 individuals representing at least 1.8% of the wintering Eastern Atlantic – wintering population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)  
 Sanderling *Calidris alba*, 2,859 individuals representing at least 2.9% of the wintering Eastern Atlantic/Western & Southern Africa – wintering population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)  
 Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*, 4,103 individuals representing at least 1.4% of the wintering Northwestern Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)  
 Teal *Anas crecca*, 7,641 individuals representing at least 1.9% of the wintering Northwestern Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)  
 Wigeon *Anas penelope*, 84,699 individuals representing at least 6.8% of the wintering Western Siberia/Northwestern/Northeastern Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

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*Assemblage qualification: A seabird assemblage of international importance*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 seabirds

During the breeding season, the area regularly supports 29,236 individual seabirds including: Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*, Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*, Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*.

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*Assemblage qualification: A wetland of international importance.*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 waterfowl

Over winter, the area regularly supports 301,449 individual waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6) including: Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*, Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*, Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*, Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*, Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*, Wigeon *Anas penelope*, Teal *Anas crecca*, Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*, Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*, Curlew *Numenius arquata*, Knot *Calidris canutus*, Sanderling *Calidris alba*, Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*, Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa islandica*, Redshank *Tringa totanus*, Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*, Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*, Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, Pintail *Anas acuta*.

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Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Rutland Water

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
England	Rutland	Classified 04/10/1991

Latitude	Longitude
52 38 52 N	00 39 54 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9008051	1556.87



**Component SSSI/** Rutland Water  
**ASSIs**

Rutland Water is located in Rutland, in the English East Midlands. It is a man-made pump storage reservoir created by the damming of the Gwash Valley in 1975 and is the largest reservoir in the United Kingdom. In general the reservoir is drawn down in the summer and filled during the autumn and winter months when river levels are high. The main habitats are open water and a mosaic of lagoons, reedswamp, marsh, old meadows, scrub and woodland. The lagoons are one of the most important areas for wintering wildfowl.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*Over winter;*

Gadwall *Anas strepera*, 1,156 individuals representing at least 3.9% of the wintering Northwestern Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Shoveler *Anas clypeata*, 526 individuals representing at least 1.3% of the wintering Northwestern/Central Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

*Assemblage qualification: A wetland of international importance.*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 waterfowl

Over winter, the area regularly supports 23,501 individual waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6) including: Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, Coot *Fulica atra*, Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*, Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*, Pochard *Aythya ferina*, Teal *Anas crecca*, Wigeon *Anas penelope*, Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*, Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*, Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*, Shoveler *Anas clypeata*, Gadwall *Anas strepera*.

Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

# Salisbury Plain

## 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
England	Wiltshire Hampshire	Classified 03/11/1993

Latitude	Longitude
51 15 14 N	01 53 11 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9011102	19688.88



**Component SSSI/** Salisbury Plain  
**ASSIs**

The largest remaining area of chalk grassland in north-west Europe, Salisbury Plain is located in central southern England as a plateau of Upper and Middle Chalk to the north of Salisbury. Much of the area is used for military training, which has prevented the conversion of the ancient grassland to arable farming that has been so prevalent elsewhere in England. Rare plants include Tuberous Thistle *Cirsium tuberosum* and Meadow Clary *Salvia pratensis*. As well as the suite of grasses and herbs characteristic of open chalk grassland, Salisbury Plain supports important scrub communities with a wide variety of native shrubs, though these are small in extent compared with open grasslands. There are some important stands of Juniper *Juniperus communis*, while Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, Buckthorn *Rhamnus cathartica*, Yew *Taxus baccata* and Wayfaring-tree *Viburnum lantana* are some of the shrubs present. There are also important assemblages of invertebrates (especially butterflies and moths, flies and bees) associated with both the ancient grassland and the successional scrub communities. Breeding Stone Curlew *Burhinus oedicephalus* and other birds are dependent upon the extensive areas of short grassland, and wintering birds forage over the grasslands and scrub. Raptors overwinter, feeding on small birds and mammals.

## 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Stone Curlew *Burhinus oedicephalus*, 22 pairs representing at least 11.6% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count as at 1998)

*Over winter;*

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*, 14 individuals representing at least 1.9% of the wintering population in Great Britain (RSPB 1996/7)

## Sandlings

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
England	Suffolk	not yet available

Latitude	Longitude
52 11 14 N	01 30 57 E

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9020286	to be confirmed upon site classification.



Component SSSI/ ASSIs	Blaxhall Heath Leiston – Aldeburgh Sandlings Forest Snape Warren Sutton and Hollesley Heaths Tunstall Common
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The Sandlings SPA lies near the Suffolk coast between the Deben Estuary and Leiston. In the 19th century, the area was dominated by heathland developed on glacial sandy soils. During the 20th century, large areas of heath were planted with blocks of commercial conifer forest and others were converted to arable agriculture. Lack of traditional management has resulted in the remnant areas of heath which have survived successional changes and the consequent spread of bracken *Pteridium aquilinum*, shrubs and trees. The recent conservation management work, however, is resulting in their restoration. The heaths support both acid grassland and heather-dominated plant communities with dependent invertebrate and bird communities of conservation value. Woodlark *Lullula arborea* and Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus* have also adapted to breeding in the large blocks of conifer forest, using areas that have recently been felled and recent plantation, as well as areas managed as open ground.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*, 109 pairs representing at least 3.2% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count as at 1992)

Woodlark *Lullula arborea*, 154 pairs representing at least 10.3% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count as at 1997)

# Solent and Southampton Water

## 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
England	Isle of Wight Southampton Hampshire	Classified 01/10/1998

Latitude	Longitude
50 44 25N	01 31 33 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9011061	5505.86



### Component SSSI/ ASSIs

Brading Marshes to St. Helen's Ledges  
 Eling and Bury Marshes  
 Hurst Castle and Lymington River Estuary  
 Hythe to Calshot Marshes  
 King's Quay Shore  
 Lee-on-The-Solent to Itchen Estuary  
 Lincegrove and Hackett's Marshes  
 Lower Test Valley  
 Lymington River Reedbeds  
 Medina Estuary  
 Newtown Harbour  
 North Solent  
 Ryde Sands and Wootton Creek  
 Sowley Pond  
 Thorness Bay  
 Titchfield Haven  
 Upper Hamble Estuary and Woods  
 Whitecliff Bay and Bembridge Ledges  
 Yar Estuary

The Solent and Southampton Water are located on the south English coast. The area covered extends from Hurst Spit to Hill Head along the south coast of Hampshire, and from Yarmouth to Whitecliff Bay along the north coast of the Isle of Wight. The site comprises a series of estuaries and harbours with extensive mud-flats and saltmarshes together with adjacent coastal habitats including saline lagoons, shingle beaches, reedbeds, damp woodland and grazing marsh. The mud-flats support beds of *Enteromorpha* spp. and *Zostera* spp. and have a rich invertebrate fauna that forms the food resource for the estuarine birds. In summer, the site is of importance for breeding seabirds, including gulls and four species of terns. In winter, the SPA holds a large and diverse assemblage of waterbirds, including geese, ducks and waders. Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta b. bernicla* also feed in surrounding areas of agricultural land outside the SPA.

## 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*, 267 pairs representing at least 2.2% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean, 1993–1997)  
 Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*, 49 pairs representing at least 2.0% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean, 1993–1997)  
 Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*, 2 pairs representing at least 20.0% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean, 1994–1998)  
 Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii*, 2 pairs representing at least 3.3% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean, 1993–1997)  
 Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*, 231 pairs representing at least 1.7% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean, 1993–1997)

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This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*Over winter;*

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa islandica*, 1,125 individuals representing at least 1.6% of the wintering Iceland – breeding population (5 year peak mean, 1992/3–1996/7)  
 Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*, 7,506 individuals representing at least 2.5% of the wintering Western Siberia/Western Europe population (5 year peak mean, 1992/3–1996/7)  
 Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, 552 individuals representing at least 1.1% of the wintering Europe/Northern Africa – wintering population (5 year peak mean, 1992/3–1996/7)  
 Teal *Anas crecca*, 4,400 individuals representing at least 1.1% of the wintering Northwestern Europe population (5 year peak mean, 1992/3–1996/7)

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*Assemblage qualification: A wetland of international importance.*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 waterfowl

Over winter, the area regularly supports 53,948 individual waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6) including: Gadwall *Anas strepera*, Teal *Anas crecca*, Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa islandica*, Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*, Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*, Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*, Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*, Wigeon *Anas penelope*, Redshank *Tringa totanus*, Pintail *Anas acuta*, Shoveler *Anas clypeata*, Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*, Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*, Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*, Curlew *Numenius arquata*, Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*.

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Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Somerset Levels and Moors

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
England	Somerset	Classified 26/06/1997

Latitude	Longitude
51 10 14 N	02 52 00 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9010031	6388.49



Component SSSI/ ASSIs	
	Catcott Edington and Chilton Moors
	Curry and Hay Moors
	King's Sedgemoor
	Moorlinch
	Shapwick Heath
	Southlake Moor
	Tealham and Tadham Moors
	West Moor
	West Sedge Moor
	Westhay Heath
	Westhay Moor
	Wet Moor

The Somerset Levels and Moors are located in south-west England and are one of the largest and richest areas of traditionally managed wet grassland and fen habitats in lowland UK. The SPA is within this area, and covers about 35,000 ha in the floodplains of the Rivers Axe, Brue, Parrett, Tone and their tributaries. The majority of the site is only a few metres above mean sea level and drains through a large network of ditches, rhynes, drains and rivers. Flooding may affect large areas in winter depending on rainfall and tidal conditions. Parts of the site in the Brue Valley include areas of former raised peatbog that have now been substantially modified by agricultural intensification and peat extraction. This has created areas of open water, fen and reedbed. The site attracts important numbers of waterbirds (swans, ducks and waders) in winter.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

#### Over winter;

Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*, 191 individuals representing at least 2.7% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, 3,029 individuals representing at least 1.2% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*Over winter;*

Shoveler *Anas clypeata*, 501 individuals representing at least 1.3% of the wintering Northwestern/Central Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Teal *Anas crecca*, 13,307 individuals representing at least 3.3% of the wintering Northwestern Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Wigeon *Anas penelope*, 13,661 individuals representing at least 1.1% of the wintering Western Siberia/Northwestern/Northeastern Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

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*Assemblage qualification: A wetland of international importance.*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 waterfowl

Over winter, the area regularly supports 72,874 individual waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6) including: Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*, Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, Pintail *Anas acuta*, Gadwall *Anas strepera*, Shoveler *Anas clypeata*, Teal *Anas crecca*, Wigeon *Anas penelope*, Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*.

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Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## South Pennine Moors

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
England	Cheshire Derbyshire Lancashire Staffordshire Barnsley Sheffield Leeds City of Bradford Calderdale Kirklees Rochdale Oldham Tameside	not yet available



Latitude	Longitude
53 28 03 N	01 45 51 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9007021	66207.1

Component SSSI/ ASSIs	Dark Peak Eastern Peak District Moors Goyt Valley Leek Moors South Pennine Moors
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The South Pennine Moors SPA (including the proposed extension to encompass Eastern Peak District Moors SSSI) includes the major moorland blocks of the South Pennines from Ilkley in the north to Leek and Matlock in the south. It covers extensive tracts of semi-natural moorland habitats including upland heath and blanket mire. The site is of European importance for several upland breeding species, including birds of prey and waders. Both Merlin *Falco columbarius* and Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria* spend some of their time feeding outside the SPA on adjacent areas of in-bye land. The northern end of the South Pennine Moors SPA is within 10 km of the North Pennine Moors SPA which supports a similar assemblage of upland breeding species.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, 752 pairs representing at least 3.3% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count as at 1990)

Merlin *Falco columbarius*, 77 pairs representing at least 5.9% of the breeding population in Great Britain

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*, 16 pairs representing at least 1.4% of the breeding population in Great Britain

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*, 25 pairs representing at least 2.5% of the breeding population in Great Britain

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This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*During the breeding season;*

Dunlin *Calidris alpina schinzii*, 140 pairs representing at least 1.3% of the breeding Baltic/UK/Ireland population

## South West London Waterbodies

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
England	Surrey Windsor and Maidenhead Greater London	Classified 22/09/2000

Latitude	Longitude
51 27 41 N	00 31 27 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9012171	828.14



**Component SSSI/ASSIs**

- Kempton Park Reservoirs
- Knight and Bessborough Reservoirs
- Staines Moor
- Thorpe Park No. 1 Gravel Pit
- Wraysbury and Hythe End Gravel Pits
- Wraysbury No. 1 Gravel Pit
- Wraysbury Reservoir

The South-West London Water Bodies SPA comprises a series of embanked water supply reservoirs and former gravel pits that support a range of man-made and semi-natural open water habitats. The reservoirs and gravel pits function as important feeding and roosting sites for wintering wildfowl, in particular Gadwall *Anas strepera* and Shoveler *Anas clypeata*, both of which occur in numbers of European importance.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

#### *Over winter;*

Gadwall *Anas strepera*, 786 individuals representing at least 2.6% of the wintering Northwestern Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Shoveler *Anas clypeata*, 1,075 individuals representing at least 2.7% of the wintering Northwestern/Central Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Stodmarsh

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
England	Kent	Classified 16/12/1993

Latitude	Longitude
51 18 18 N	01 10 19 E

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9012121	481.33



**Component SSSI/ ASSIs**      Stodmarsh

Stodmarsh is located in central Kent in south-east England. It is a wetland site resulting from subsidence under the valley of the Great Stour. The range of wetland habitats include open water, extensive reedbeds, grazing marsh and Alder *Alnus glutinosa* carr. The site supports a number of uncommon wetland invertebrates and plants, and provides wintering habitats for wetland bird species. It is especially notable in winter for supporting significant numbers of Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus* and Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*Over winter;*

Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*, 2 individuals representing at least 2.0% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak count, 1987/8–1991/2)

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*, 9 individuals representing at least 1.2% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak count, 1987/8–1991/2)

Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

# Stour and Orwell Estuaries

## 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
England	Essex Suffolk	Classified 13/07/1994

Latitude	Longitude
51 57 15 N	01 09 26 E

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9009121	3323.62



Component SSSI/ ASSIs	Orwell Estuary Stour Estuary
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The Stour and Orwell estuaries straddle the eastern part of the Essex/Suffolk border in eastern England. The estuaries include extensive mud-flats, low cliffs, saltmarsh and small areas of vegetated shingle on the lower reaches. The mud-flats hold *Enteromorpha*, *Zostera* and *Salicornia* spp. The site also includes an area of low-lying grazing marsh at Shotley Marshes on the south side of the Orwell. In summer, the site supports important numbers of breeding Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*, while in winter they hold major concentrations of waterbirds, especially geese, ducks and waders. The geese also feed, and waders roost, in surrounding areas of agricultural land outside the SPA.

The site has close ecological links with the Hamford Water and Mid-Essex Coast SPAs, lying to the south on the same coast.

## 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*Over winter;*

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*, 10 individuals representing at least 1.3% of the wintering population in Great Britain (Count as at 1996/7)

This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*Over winter;*

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa islandica*, 2,475 individuals representing at least 3.5% of the wintering Iceland – breeding population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*, 23,940 individuals representing at least 1.7% of the wintering Northern Siberia/Europe/Western Africa population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*, 3,660 individuals representing at least 2.4% of the wintering Eastern Atlantic – wintering population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Pintail *Anas acuta*, 878 individuals representing at least 1.5% of the wintering Northwestern Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Redshank *Tringa totanus*, 3,545 individuals representing at least 2.4% of the wintering Eastern Atlantic – wintering population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, 578 individuals representing at least 1.2% of the wintering Europe/Northern Africa – wintering population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)  
 Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*, 3,672 individuals representing at least 1.2% of the wintering Northwestern Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)  
 Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*, 836 individuals representing at least 1.2% of the wintering Western Palearctic – wintering population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

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*Assemblage qualification: A wetland of international importance.*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 waterfowl

Over winter, the area regularly supports 64,768 individual waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6) including: Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*, Pintail *Anas acuta*, Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*, Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*, Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa islandica*, Redshank *Tringa totanus*, Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*, Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*, Curlew *Numenius arquata*, Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*, Wigeon *Anas penelope*, Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*, Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*, Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, Knot *Calidris canutus*, Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*.

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Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Tamar Estuaries Complex

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
England	City of Plymouth Devon Cornwall	Classified 26/06/1997

Latitude	Longitude
50 26 14 N	04 11 42 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9010141	1955



Component SSSI/ ASSIs	Lynher Estuary St John's Lake Tamar-Tavy Estuary
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The Tamar Estuary lies on the border between Devon and Cornwall on the southern coast of England. The estuary system is a large marine inlet on the English Channel coast comprising the estuaries of the rivers Tamar, Lynher and Tavy which collectively drain an extensive part of Devon and Cornwall. The Tamar river and its tributaries provide the main input of fresh water into the estuary complex, and form a ria (drowned river valley) with Plymouth lying on the eastern shore. The broader lower reaches of the rivers form extensive tidal mud-flats bordered by saltmarsh communities. The mud-flats contain extensive and varied infaunal communities rich in bivalves and other invertebrates, and feeding grounds for waterbirds in numbers of European importance. Saltmarshes provide important feeding and roosting areas for large numbers of wintering and passage waterbirds.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

#### *On passage;*

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*, 72 individuals representing at least 9.0% of the population in Great Britain (Count as at 1993)

#### *Over winter;*

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*, 201 individuals representing at least 15.8% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*, 42 individuals representing at least 8.4% of the wintering population in Great Britain (Count as at 1993)

Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
England	Redcar and Cleveland Stockton-on-Tees Hartlepool	Classified 15/08/1995

Latitude	Longitude
54 37 50 N	01 07 07 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9006061	1247.31



Component SSSI/ ASSIs	Cowpen Marsh Durham Coast Redcar Rocks Seal Sands Seaton Dunes and Common South Gare and Coatham Sands Tees and Hartlepool Foreshore and Wetlands
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Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA is located on the coast of north-east England. It includes a range of coastal habitats – sand- and mud-flats, rocky shore, saltmarsh, freshwater marsh and sand dunes – on and around an estuary which has been considerably modified by human activities. Together these habitats provide feeding and roosting opportunities for important numbers of waterbirds in winter and during passage periods. In summer Little Tern *Sterna albifrons* breed on beaches within the site, while Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis* are abundant on passage.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

#### *During the breeding season;*

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*, 37 pairs representing at least 1.5% of the breeding population in Great Britain (4 year mean 1993–1996)

#### *On passage;*

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*, 2,190 individuals representing at least 5.2% of the population in Great Britain (5 year mean 1991–1995)

This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

#### *On passage;*

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, 634 individuals representing at least 1.3% of the Europe/Northern Africa – wintering population (5 yr mean spring 91–95)

*Over winter;*

Knot *Calidris canutus*, 4,190 individuals representing at least 1.2% of the wintering Northeastern Canada/Greenland/Iceland/Northwestern Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Redshank *Tringa totanus*, 1,648 individuals representing at least 1.1% of the wintering Eastern Atlantic – wintering population (5 year peak mean 87–91)

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*Assemblage qualification: A wetland of international importance.*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 waterfowl

Over winter, the area regularly supports 21,406 individual waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6) including: Sanderling *Calidris alba*, Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*, Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*, Redshank *Tringa totanus*, Knot *Calidris canutus*.

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Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Thames Basin Heaths

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
England	Bracknell Forest Hampshire Surrey	not yet available

Latitude	Longitude
15 18 18 N	00 45 06 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9012141	to be confirmed upon site classification.



Component SSSI/ASSIs	
	Ash to Brookwood Heaths
	Bourley and Long Valley
	Bramshill
	Broadmoor to Bagshot Woods and Heaths
	Castle Bottom to Yately and Hawley Commons
	Chobham Common
	Colony Bog and Bagshot Heaths
	Eelmoor Marsh
	Hazeley Heath
	Horsell Common
	Ockham and Wisley Commons
	Sandhurst to Owlsmoor Bogs and Heaths
	Whitmoor Common

The Thames Basin Heaths SPA is a composite site that is located across the counties of Surrey, Hampshire and Berkshire in southern England. The open heathland habitats overlie sand and gravel sediments which give rise to sandy or peaty acidic soils, supporting dry heathy vegetation on well-drained slopes, wet heath on low-lying shallow slopes and bogs in valleys. The site consists of tracts of heathland, scrub and woodland, once almost continuous, but now fragmented into separate blocks by roads, urban development and farmland. Less open habitats of scrub, acidic woodland and conifer plantations dominate, within which are scattered areas of open heath and mire. The site supports important breeding populations of a number of birds of lowland heathland, especially Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus* and Woodlark *Lullula arborea*, both of which nest on the ground, often at the woodland/heathland edge, and Dartford Warbler *Sylvia undata*, which often nests in gorse *Ulex* sp. Scattered trees and scrub are used for roosting.

Together with the nearby Wealden Heaths SPA and Ashdown Forest SPA, the Thames Basin Heaths form part of a complex of heathlands in southern England that support important breeding bird populations.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Dartford Warbler *Sylvia undata*, 445 pairs representing at least 27.8% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count as at 1999)

Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*, 264 pairs representing at least 7.8% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count mean (1998–99))

Woodlark *Lullula arborea*, 149 pairs representing at least 9.9% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count as at 1997)

## Thames Estuary and Marshes

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
England	Medway Thurrock Kent	Classified 31/03/2000

Latitude	Longitude
51 29 08 N	00 35 47 E

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9012021	4838.94



**Component SSSI/ASSIs** Mucking Flats and Marshes  
South Thames Estuary and Marshes

The Thames Estuary and Marshes SPA is located on the south side of the Thames Estuary in southern England. The marshes extend for about 15 km along the south side of the estuary and also include intertidal areas on the north side of the estuary. To the south of the river, much of the area is brackish grazing marsh, although some of this has been converted to arable use. At Cliffe, there are flooded clay and chalk pits, some of which have been infilled with dredgings. Outside the sea wall, there is a small extent of saltmarsh and broad intertidal mud-flats. The estuary and adjacent grazing marsh areas support an important assemblage of wintering waterbirds including grebes, geese, ducks and waders. The site is also important in spring and autumn migration periods.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

#### *Over winter;*

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*, 276 individuals representing at least 21.7% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*, 7 individuals representing at least 0.9% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year mean 93/4–97/8)

This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

#### *On passage;*

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, 559 individuals representing at least 1.1% of the Europe/Northern Africa – wintering population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

#### *Over winter;*

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, 541 individuals representing at least 1.1% of the wintering Europe/Northern Africa – wintering population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

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*Assemblage qualification: A wetland of international importance.*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 waterfowl

Over winter, the area regularly supports 33,433 individual waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6) including: Redshank *Tringa totanus*, Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa islandica*, Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*, Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*, Shoveler *Anas clypeata*, Pintail *Anas acuta*, Gadwall *Anas strepera*, Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*, White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons albifrons*, Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*, Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*.

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Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
England	Kent	Classified 28/07/1994

Latitude	Longitude
51 18 18 N	01 22 47 E

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9012071	1870.16



**Component SSSI/SSIs** Sandwich Bay to Hacklinge Marshes  
Thanet Coast

Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay SPA is located at the north-eastern tip of Kent in southern England. It is a coastal site consisting of a long stretch of rocky shore, adjoining areas of estuary, sand dune, maritime grassland, saltmarsh and grazing marsh. The site holds important numbers of Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*, and is also used by large numbers of migratory birds as they make landfall in Britain in spring or depart for continental Europe in autumn.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

#### *Over winter;*

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*, 940 individuals representing at least 1.3% of the wintering Western Palearctic – wintering population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

# The Swale

## 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
England	Kent	Classified 31/08/1982

Latitude	Longitude
51 21 39 N	00 50 21 E

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9012011	6514.71



**Component SSSI/ASSIs**      The Swale

The Swale is located on the south side of the outer part of the Thames Estuary in south-eastern England. The Swale is an estuarine area that separates the Isle of Sheppey from the Kent mainland. To the west it adjoins the Medway Estuary. It is a complex of brackish and freshwater, floodplain grazing marsh with ditches, and intertidal saltmarshes and mud-flats. The intertidal flats are extensive, especially in the east of the site, and support a dense invertebrate fauna. These invertebrates, together with beds of algae and Eelgrass *Zostera* spp., are important food sources for waterbirds. Locally there are large Mussel *Mytilus edulis* beds formed on harder areas of substrate. The SPA contains the largest extent of grazing marsh in Kent (although much reduced from its former extent). There is much diversity both in the salinity of the dykes (which range from fresh to strongly brackish) and in the topography of the fields. The wide diversity of coastal habitats found on the Swale combine to support important numbers of waterbirds throughout the year. In summer, the site is of importance for Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*, breeding waders and Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*. In spring and autumn migration periods, as well as during winter, the Swale supports very large numbers of geese, ducks and waders.

## 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

### *During the breeding season;*

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*, 103 pairs representing at least 17.5% of the breeding population in Great Britain (RBBP 1996)

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*, 24 pairs representing at least 15.0% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count, as at 1995)

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*, 12 pairs representing at least 120.0% of the breeding population in Great Britain (RBBP 1996)

### *Over winter;*

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*, 89 individuals representing at least 7.0% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*, 542 individuals representing at least 1.0% of the wintering population in Great Britain (Count as at 91/92–95/96)

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, 2,862 individuals representing at least 1.1% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*, 23 individuals representing at least 3.1% of the wintering population in Great Britain (Count as at 1996/8)

This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*On passage;*

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, 683 individuals representing at least 1.4% of the Europe/Northern Africa – wintering population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

*Over winter;*

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa islandica*, 1,755 individuals representing at least 2.5% of the wintering Iceland – breeding population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*, 2,021 individuals representing at least 1.3% of the wintering Eastern Atlantic – wintering population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Knot *Calidris canutus*, 5,582 individuals representing at least 1.6% of the wintering Northeastern Canada/Greenland/Iceland/Northwestern Europe population (Count as at 91/92–95/96)

Pintail *Anas acuta*, 966 individuals representing at least 1.6% of the wintering Northwestern Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Redshank *Tringa totanus*, 1,640 individuals representing at least 1.1% of the wintering Eastern Atlantic – wintering population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Shoveler *Anas clypeata*, 471 individuals representing at least 1.2% of the wintering Northwestern/Central Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

*Assemblage qualification: A wetland of international importance.*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 waterfowl

Over winter, the area regularly supports 65,390 individual waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6) including: White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons albifrons*, Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*, Pintail *Anas acuta*, Shoveler *Anas clypeata*, Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*, Knot *Calidris canutus*, Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa islandica*, Redshank *Tringa totanus*, Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*, Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*, Curlew *Numenius arquata*, Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*, Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*, Wigeon *Anas penelope*, Gadwall *Anas strepera*, Teal *Anas crecca*, Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*, Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*, Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*.

Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

# The Wash

## 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
England	Norfolk Lincolnshire	Classified 30/03/1988

Latitude	Longitude
52 56 16 N	00 17 12 E

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9008021	62211.66



**Component SSSI/** The Wash  
**ASSIs**

The Wash is located on the east coast of England and is the largest estuarine system in the UK. It is fed by the rivers Witham, Welland, Nene and Great Ouse that drain much of the east Midlands of England. The Wash comprises very extensive saltmarshes, major intertidal banks of sand and mud, shallow waters and deep channels. The eastern end of the site includes low chalk cliffs at Hunstanton. In addition, on the eastern side, the gravel pits at Snettisham are an important high-tide roost for waders. The intertidal flats have a rich invertebrate fauna and colonising beds of Glasswort *Salicornia* spp. which are important food sources for the large numbers of waterbirds dependent on the site. The sheltered nature of The Wash creates suitable breeding conditions for shellfish, principally Mussel *Mytilus edulis*, Cockle *Cardium edule* and shrimps. These are important food sources for some waterbirds such as Oystercatchers *Haematopus ostralegus*. The Wash is of outstanding importance for a large number of geese, ducks and waders, both in spring and autumn migration periods, as well as through the winter. The SPA is especially notable for supporting a very large proportion (over half) of the total population of Canada/Greenland breeding Knot *Calidris canutus islandica*. In summer, the Wash is an important breeding area for terns and as a feeding area for Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus* that breed just outside the SPA.

To the north, the coastal habitats of The Wash are continuous with Gibraltar Point SPA, whilst to the east The Wash adjoins the North Norfolk Coast SPA.

## 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*, 152 pairs representing at least 1.2% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count, as at 1993)

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*, 33 pairs representing at least 1.4% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year mean, 1992–1996)

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*, 15 pairs representing at least 9.4% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count as at 1995)

*Over winter;*

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*, 110 individuals representing at least 8.7% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)  
 Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*, 11,250 individuals representing at least 21.2% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)  
 Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, 11,037 individuals representing at least 4.4% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)  
 Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*, 68 individuals representing at least 1.2% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

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This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*On passage;*

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, 1,185 individuals representing at least 2.4% of the Europe/Northern Africa – wintering population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)  
 Sanderling *Calidris alba*, 1,854 individuals representing at least 1.9% of the Eastern Atlantic/Western & Southern Africa – wintering population (2 year mean Aug 1994–1995)

*Over winter;*

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa islandica*, 859 individuals representing at least 1.2% of the wintering Iceland – breeding population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)  
 Curlew *Numenius arquata*, 3,835 individuals representing at least 1.1% of the wintering Europe – breeding population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)  
 Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*, 22,248 individuals representing at least 7.4% of the wintering Western Siberia/Western Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)  
 Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*, 35,620 individuals representing at least 2.5% of the wintering Northern Siberia/Europe/Western Africa population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)  
 Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*, 9,708 individuals representing at least 6.5% of the wintering Eastern Atlantic – wintering population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)  
 Knot *Calidris canutus*, 186,892 individuals representing at least 53.4% of the wintering Northeastern Canada/Greenland/Iceland/Northwestern Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)  
 Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*, 25,651 individuals representing at least 2.9% of the wintering Europe & Northern/Western Africa population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)  
 Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*, 33,265 individuals representing at least 14.8% of the wintering Eastern Greenland/Iceland/UK population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)  
 Pintail *Anas acuta*, 923 individuals representing at least 1.5% of the wintering Northwestern Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)  
 Redshank *Tringa totanus*, 2,953 individuals representing at least 2.0% of the wintering Eastern Atlantic – wintering population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)  
 Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*, 15,981 individuals representing at least 5.3% of the wintering Northwestern Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)  
 Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*, 717 individuals representing at least 1.0% of the wintering Western Palearctic – wintering population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

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*Assemblage qualification: A wetland of international importance.*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 waterfowl

Over winter, the area regularly supports 400,273 individual waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6) including: Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa islandica*, Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*, Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*, Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*, Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*, Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*, Pintail *Anas acuta*, Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*, Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*, Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*, Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*, Sanderling *Calidris alba*, Curlew *Numenius arquata*, Redshank *Tringa totanus*, Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*, Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*, Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*, White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons albifrons*, Wigeon *Anas penelope*, Mallard

*Anas platyrhynchos*, Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, Knot *Calidris canutus*.

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Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Thorne and Hatfield Moors

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
England	East Riding of Yorkshire North Lincolnshire Doncaster	Classified 16/08/2000

Latitude	Longitude
53 38 16 N	00 53 53 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9005171	2449.2



<b>Component SSSI/ASSIs</b>	Hatfield Moors Thorne, Crowle and Goole Moors
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Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA is an extensive lowland raised mire system adjacent to the Humber estuary on the north-east coast of England and is the largest remaining lowland peatland in England. Despite a long history of extensive peat extraction since the late nineteenth century, the site retains substantial areas of *Sphagnum* bog, which has been changed by succession to wet scrub woodland dominated by Birch *Betula* sp., sallows and Alder *Alnus glutinosa*. Where the peat surface has been removed, subsequent restoration of active bog has depended upon shallow flooding to allow *Sphagnum* and other bog plants to re-colonise. The mire communities are dominated by Hare's-tail *Eriophorum vaginatum* and Common Cottongrass *E. angustifolium*, Cross-leaved Heath *Erica tetralix*, Soft-rush *Juncus effusus* and *Sphagnum* mosses, and include a variety of scarcer bog plants such as Bog-rosemary *Andromeda polifolia* and Cranberry *Vaccinium oxycoccos*. Drier heath is dominated by Heather *Calluna vulgaris*, Bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* and Purple Moor-grass *Molinia caerulea*. Birch *Betula* sp. scrub, some of it dense, occurs throughout both moors. The diverse mosaic of habitats contribute greatly to the ornithological interest, which comprises breeding species, notably Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*, 66 pairs representing at least 1.9% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 count peak mean 1993, 1995–1998)

## Walmore Common

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### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
England	Gloucestershire	Classified 05/12/1991

Latitude	Longitude
51 49 58 N	02 22 14 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9007051	52.85



**Component SSSI/** Walmore Common  
**ASSIs**

Walmore Common is located in Gloucestershire, in the west of England, about 10 km south-west of Gloucester. It is an area of damp grassland and ditches composed of clayey soils overlying the only significant area of peatland in Gloucestershire. The area is subject to regular winter flooding and this creates suitable conditions for regular wintering by an important number of Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*.

### 2. Qualifying species

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This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*Over winter;*

Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*, 104 individuals representing at least 1.5% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

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Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Wealden Heaths

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
England	Hampshire Surrey	not yet available

Latitude	Longitude
51 05 11 N	00 51 02 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9012131	3923.8



<b>Component SSSI/ASSIs</b>	Thursley, Hankley and Frensham Commons Devil's Punch Bowl Woolmer Forest Bramshott and Ludshott Commons Broxhead and Kingsley Commons
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Wealden Heaths SPA is located within Hampshire, Surrey and West Sussex. It comprises areas of wet and dry heathland, valley bogs, broad-leaved and coniferous woodland, permanent grassland and open water. Some of these habitats are themselves of European significance and support nationally important assemblages of wetland plants, invertebrates and reptiles. The site has three heathland-breeding bird species in numbers of European importance: Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus* and Woodlark *Lullula arborea*, and Dartford Warbler *Sylvia undata* which nest and feed in gorse *Ulex* sp.

Together with the nearby Thames Basin Heaths SPA and Ashdown Forest SPA, Wealden Heaths form part of a complex of heathlands in southern England that support breeding bird populations of European importance.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Dartford Warbler *Sylvia undata*, 123 pairs representing at least 7.7% of the breeding population in Great Britain

Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*, 103 pairs representing at least 3.0% of the breeding population in Great Britain

Woodlark *Lullula arborea*, 105 pairs representing at least 7.0% of the breeding population in Great Britain



# The UK SPA network: its scope and content

Site accounts for England/Scotland

## Upper Solway Flats and Marshes

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
England/Scotland	Dumfries and Galloway Cumbria	Classified 30/11/1992

Latitude	Longitude
54 58 04 N	03 19 17 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9005012	30706.26



**Component SSSI/ASSIs** Upper Solway Flats and Marshes

The Upper Solway Flats and Marshes SPA lies on the west coast on the border between England and Scotland. The flats and marshes of the Upper Solway form one of the largest continuous areas of intertidal habitat in Britain. The geomorphology and vegetation of the estuarine saltmarshes or meres are of international importance, with broad transitions to mature 'upper-marsh' being particularly well represented. The whole estuarine complex is of importance for wintering wildfowl (ducks, geese and swans) and waders, and is a vital link in a chain of west coast UK estuaries used by migrating waterbirds. The SPA supports virtually all of the Svalbard population of Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis* over the winter.

The site includes the subsumed SPA of Rockcliffe Marsh, which was subject to separate classification.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*Over winter;*

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*, 2,367 individuals representing at least 4.5% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*, 13,595 individuals representing at least 113.3% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, 6,121 individuals representing at least 2.4% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*, 117 individuals representing at least 2.1% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*On passage;*

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, 729 individuals representing at least 1.5% of the Europe/Northern Africa – wintering population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

*Over winter;*

Curlew *Numenius arquata*, 5,881 individuals representing at least 1.7% of the wintering Europe – breeding population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)  
 Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*, 14,566 individuals representing at least 1.0% of the wintering Northern Siberia/Europe/Western Africa population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)  
 Knot *Calidris canutus*, 12,271 individuals representing at least 3.5% of the wintering Northeastern Canada/Greenland/Iceland/Northwestern Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)  
 Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*, 34,694 individuals representing at least 3.9% of the wintering Europe & Northern/Western Africa population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)  
 Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*, 15,983 individuals representing at least 7.1% of the wintering Eastern Greenland/Iceland/UK population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)  
 Pintail *Anas acuta*, 2,253 individuals representing at least 3.8% of the wintering Northwestern Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)  
 Redshank *Tringa totanus*, 3,088 individuals representing at least 2.1% of the wintering Eastern Atlantic – wintering population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

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*Assemblage qualification: A wetland of international importance.*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 waterfowl

Over winter, the area regularly supports 133,222 individual waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6) including: Redshank *Tringa totanus*, Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*, Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*, Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*, Pintail *Anas acuta*, Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*, Knot *Calidris canutus*, Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*, Curlew *Numenius arquata*, Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*, Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*, Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*, Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*, Scaup *Aythya marila*, Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*, Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*, Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*.

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Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.



# The UK SPA network: its scope and content

Site accounts for Scotland

# Abernethy Forest

## 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Highland	Classified 25/04/1990

Latitude	Longitude
57 13 22 N	03 18 10 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9002561	5793.46



**Component SSSI/ ASSIs**      Abernethy

Abernethy Forest is located on the southern fringe of the Spey Valley to the north of the Cairngorm massif in the eastern Highlands of Scotland. It is the largest remaining tract of native pinewood in Britain and is characterised by its great variety of topography and habitats. The River Nethy flows northwards through the eastern margin of the forest, creating an additional variety of conditions through the processes of erosion and deposition along its channel. The forest has developed on undulating glacial deposits, with Loch Garten and many pools (and their surrounding valley mires) found within the lowest areas. In contrast, the higher ground opens out in places to Heather *Calluna vulgaris*-Bearberry *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi* heaths and there is an extensive shrub layer of Juniper *Juniperus communis* in many places. Although some undisturbed high forest remains, much of the woodland has been managed, although the presence of old pines and glades creates a semi-natural structure and vegetation composition in many areas. There are many plants and animals present that are characteristic of native pinewoods, as well as rich assemblages associated with wetlands and species typical of northern heaths. The forest is being extended southwards by pine regeneration on higher ground, encouraged by sympathetic conservation management. Abernethy Forest supports large populations of breeding woodland birds associated with northern pinewoods and their glades, including Capercaillie *Tetrao urogallus* and Scottish Crossbill *Loxia scotica* (Britain's only endemic bird species). The large and varied area of semi-natural vegetation at Abernethy supports several species of raptors, including nesting Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*).

## 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Capercaillie *Tetrao urogallus*, 45 individuals representing at least 2.0% of the breeding population in Great Britain

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*, 2 pairs representing at least 2.0% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count as at early 1990's)

Scottish Crossbill *Loxia scotica*, 175 pairs representing at least 58.3% of the breeding population in Great Britain

## Achanalt Marshes

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Highland	Classified 01/12/1997

Latitude	Longitude
57 36 10 N	04 53 30 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9001701	208.25



**Component SSSI/** Achanalt Marshes  
**ASSIs**

The Achanalt Marshes are located in Easter Ross, north-west Scotland. The SPA comprises the waterbodies of Loch Achanalt and Loch Odhar with associated semi-natural grassland and fen communities, interspersed with heathland and mire. It is an important part of the most extensive river valley floodplain in Easter Ross and still retains abundant semi-natural vegetation. The marshes support a range of wet grassland and fen communities. The diverse fen and marsh habitats provide ideal nesting habitat for a range of wildfowl and wader species, especially important numbers of Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*, 3 pairs representing at least 30.0% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year mean, 1991–1995)

# Ailsa Craig

## 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	South Ayrshire	Classified 25/04/1990

Latitude	Longitude
55 15 15 N	05 07 00 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9003091	99.94



**Component SSSI/ASSIs**      Ailsa Craig

Ailsa Craig is a cone-shaped granitic island, rising to 338 m, situated in the outer part of the Firth of Clyde, western Scotland. Cliffs up to 100 m encircle the island and provide nesting sites for a range of seabird species, notably one of the largest colonies of Gannet *Morus bassana* in the world. The seabirds nesting here feed in surrounding waters outside the SPA as well as further afield.

## 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*During the breeding season;*

Gannet *Morus bassana*, 32,460 pairs representing at least 12.3% of the breeding North Atlantic population (Count, as at 1995)

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*, 1,800 pairs representing at least 1.5% of the breeding Western Europe/Mediterranean/Western Africa population (Count, as at 1987)

*Assemblage qualification: A seabird assemblage of international importance*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 seabirds

During the breeding season, the area regularly supports 65,000 individual seabirds including: Guillemot *Uria aalge*, Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*, Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*, Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*, Gannet *Morus bassana*.

Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Aird & Borge, Benbecula

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Comhairle Nan Eilean/Western Isles	Classified 28/10/1999

Latitude	Longitude
57 27 20 N	07 23 30 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9001751	361



**Component SSSI/** Non-SSSI (Corncrake)  
**ASSIs**

Aird and Borge SPA is located on the west coast of the island of Benbecula in the Outer Hebrides off the north-west coast of Scotland. It comprises two areas. The Aird section extends south to Nunton and encompasses sand dunes, cultivated machair and croftland, wet machair and marsh with some reedbeds and Iris beds, and two small lochs. The Borge section is mainly cultivated machair, with sand dunes, croftland and some small marshes. These areas are of importance for their breeding populations of Corncrake *Crex crex*.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Corncrake *Crex crex*, 19 individuals representing at least 4.0% of the breeding population in Great Britain (1993–1997)

## Arran Moors

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	North Ayrshire	not yet available

Latitude	Longitude
55 32 40 W	05 13 30 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9003341	to be confirmed upon site classification.



**Component SSSI/ASSIs** To be confirmed on classification

Arran Moors SPA is located on the island of Arran off the south-west coast of Scotland. The site is an extensive area of moorland and comprises most of the southern half of Arran, extending also along the north-east coast. The predominant habitats include extensive areas of wet and dry heaths, wet and dry blanket bogs, and unimproved acid grassland. There are small areas of broad-leaved woodland, typically associated with river valleys, and several lochs. Large parts of the site have been subjected to past management by burning and drainage, and this is still prevalent in some areas. These forms of management have modified the habitats in many places, encouraging grassland formation. The site regularly supports a population of European importance of the Annex I species Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*. Breeding birds defend nesting territories but forage widely across the whole site. A diverse range of other upland birds occurs on the moorlands, although not at levels of European importance.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*, 24 pairs representing at least 4.8% of the breeding population in Great Britain (1998 National Survey)

## Assynt Lochs

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Highland	Classified 15/12/2000

Latitude	Longitude
58 10 00 N	05 00 00 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9001591	1156.43



**Component SSSI/ASSIs**      Assynt Lochs

Assynt Lochs are a collection of large oligotrophic freshwater lochs and surrounding moorland catchments located in Sutherland, northern Scotland. The 'knochan-lochan' terrain of the Assynt catchment contains a wide range of habitats characteristic of the north-west Highlands, including upland heath, upland moor, upland broad-leaved woodland, lochs, lochans, rivers and streams. Loch Assynt is the largest of the scattered lochs. Most are oligotrophic and contain a submerged flora and restricted fauna typical of nutrient-poor conditions. The lochs are important for breeding Black-throated Divers *Gavia arctica*, whilst surrounding upland habitats support a wide range of typical upland birds throughout the year.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*, 7 pairs representing at least 4.4% of the breeding population in Great Britain (1986–1996)

# Auskerry

## 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Orkney Islands	Classified 29/06/1998

Latitude	Longitude
59 02 00 N	02 34 00 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9002381	101.97



**Component SSSI/ASSIs**      Auskerry

Auskerry is a small, uninhabited low-lying island situated 5 km south of Stronsay in the Orkney Islands of northern Scotland. The shore is a mixture of rocky platforms interspersed with low cliffs and boulder/shingle beaches. The vegetation is mainly composed of sheep-grazed *Calluna* heath and acidic grassland, with smaller areas of other semi-natural habitats including neutral, marshy and coastal grasslands, bog and mire, and standing water. There is an extensive area of peat cuttings in the south of the island, almost all of which are now disused. The site is important as a nesting area for a number of breeding seabirds. These birds feed outside the SPA in the waters surrounding the island, as well as more distant waters.

## 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*, 780 pairs representing at least 1.8% of the breeding population in Great Britain (4 year mean, 1992–1995)

Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*, 3,600 pairs representing at least 4.2% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count, as at 1995)

## Ballochbuie

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Aberdeenshire	Classified 12/06/1998

Latitude	Longitude
56 59 30 N	03 19 06 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9002781	1881.73



Component SSSI/ ASSIs	Non-SSSI (Royal Estates) Creag Clunie & the Lion's Face
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Ballochbuie is located in the central Highlands of Scotland. It is an area of Caledonian pinewoods near Braemar in the upper valley of the River Dee. The site extends from low-lying pinewoods adjacent to the south side of the River Dee, up beyond the current tree line to the upland moorland and rocky crags in the south of the site that include Creag Clunie and the Lions Face. The pinewoods are important for a range of specialist birds of these woodlands, especially Capercaillie *Tetrao urogallus* and Scottish Crossbill *Loxia scotica* (Britain's only endemic bird species).

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Capercaillie *Tetrao urogallus*, 36 individuals representing at least 1.6% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count, as at 1997)

Scottish Crossbill *Loxia scotica*, 10 pairs representing at least 3.3% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count as at 1997)

# Beinn Dearg

## 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Highland	Classified 30/03/1998

Latitude	Longitude
57 48 00 N	04 55 00 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9001631	5567.59



**Component SSSI/** Beinn Dearg  
**ASSIs**

Beinn Dearg is located in the northern Highlands of Scotland, in the Ross & Cromarty district, east of the head of Loch Broom. A large and diverse mountain massif, deeply dissected by glacial action, with several broad, rounded summits over 900 m, it is regarded as one of the most important mountain systems in Britain. The variety of habitats includes woodland, mire, open water, dwarf-shrub heath, summit and snow bed communities, flushes and cliffs. The extensive summit areas are of particular significance, with a diverse and important assemblage of specialist montane birds, including breeding Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*.

## 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*, 22 pairs representing at least 2.6% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Seven year mean, 1987–1993)

## Ben Alder

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Highland	Classified 02/02/2000

Latitude	Longitude
56 50 25 N	04 29 45 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9002551	2860.21



**Component SSSI/** Ben Alder & Aonach Beag  
**ASSIs**

Ben Alder is a remote mountain massif in the Highlands, lying between Loch Ericht and Loch Laggan in Badenoch & Strathspey. There are extensive summit plateaux with much ground above 970 m. The geological composition – mainly acidic Moine schists with a band of limestone outcropping at high altitude – makes Ben Alder one of the most ecologically varied mountain systems in the western Grampian Mountains, with extensive dwarf-shrub and bryophyte heath, areas of late snow-lie, blanket mire and grassland. The large summit plateaux support a diverse and important assemblage of specialist montane birds, including a breeding population of Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*. It is also important as a spring and autumn gathering ground for Dotterel from a much wider area of the Scottish Highlands, as well as being an important spring staging area for birds en route to nest in Norway.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*, 26 pairs representing at least 3.1% of the breeding population in Great Britain (1987–1994)

# Ben Wyvis

## 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Highland	Classified 28/10/1998

Latitude	Longitude
57 41 00 N	04 34 30 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9001641	2174.54



**Component SSSI/ASSIs** Ben Wyvis

Ben Wyvis is located about 25 km north-west of Inverness in the Highlands of Scotland. It is the highest hill in this area (1,046 m) and consists of Moine pelitic gneiss in a long south-west to north-east ridge. There are spurs branching off the south-east face that enclose two deep, massive corries, while the extensive, broad summit comprises a substantial area above 760 m. This is dominated by a distinctive upland *Racomitrium lanuginosum*-*Carex bigelowii* heath, which is particularly characteristic of this mountain. Where snow lies for longer, there are patches of bryophyte-rich snow bed communities, while on the upper slopes springs and flushes intersect dwarf-shrub heath with mire communities developed on the wettest areas. On the lower slopes, blanket bog with Dwarf Birch *Betula nana* and Alpine Bearberry *Arctostaphylos alpinus* are found, and on the south side of Loch Glass there is a substantial upland Birch *Betula pendula* woodland. The vegetation overall has a character midway between the continental Cairngorm massif to the south-east and the oceanic mountains of the western Highlands. Breeding montane birds are associated particularly with the high plateaux and upper slopes of the massif, but also feed in nearby flushed and damp ground.

## 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*, 20 pairs representing at least 2.4% of the breeding population in Great Britain (7 year mean, 1987–1993)

## Black Cart

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Renfrewshire	Classified 07/12/2000

Latitude	Longitude
55 52 45 N	04 26 20 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9003221	56.3



**Component SSSI/ASSIs**      Black Cart

Black Cart SPA is located in Renfrewshire in west-central Scotland. It is a 3 km tidal stretch of the Black Cart Water and its associated floodplain, located directly north of Glasgow Airport. This stretch of Black Cart Water supports abundant submerged aquatic vegetation, typical of brackish conditions, including Fennel Pondweed *Potamogeton pectinatus*, Floating Sweet-grass *Glyceria fluitans* and Beaked Tasselweed *Ruppia maritima*. The floodplain is mostly semi-intensified pasture, but also includes small creeks, small stands of Common Reed *Phragmites australis* and areas of rush *Juncus* spp. dominated grassland. Most of the land is used for low-intensity cattle and sheep grazing. Much of the damp pasture along the southern bank of the river is liable to winter flooding, and livestock are removed from this area during winter months. The site is of European importance owing to the presence of significant numbers of overwintering Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus* of the Icelandic breeding population. The swans feed, roost and loaf over the whole area within the SPA, while their main mid- and late-winter foraging areas are on agriculturally improved land outside the SPA and to the west of the site. It is envisaged that management of these important areas will be undertaken through other means.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*Over winter;*

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*, 220 individuals representing at least 4.0% of the wintering population in Great Britain (early 90s winter peak mean)

Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Bridgend Flats, Islay

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Argyll and Bute	Classified 14/07/1988

Latitude	Longitude
55 46 22 N	06 16 05 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9003052	331.16



**Component SSSI/ASSIs**      Bridgend Flats

Bridgend Flats are located on the Hebridean island of Islay on the west coast of Scotland. The site lies in a sheltered location at the head of Loch Indaal and comprises natural saltmarsh and intertidal sand and mud-flats. The flats are used as a roosting site for overwintering geese that feed during the day outside the SPA on surrounding areas of farmland as well as in other wetland habitats.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*Over winter;*

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*, 6,700 individuals representing at least 24.8% of the wintering population in Great Britain

Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Buchan Ness to Collieston Coast

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Aberdeenshire	Classified 30/03/1998

Latitude	Longitude
57 26 20 N	01 48 30 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9002491	208.62



**Component SSSI/ASSIs** Collieston to Whinnyfold Coast  
Bullers of Buchan

Buchan Ness to Collieston Coast SPA is located on the coast of Aberdeenshire in north-east Scotland. It is a 15 km stretch of south-east facing cliff formed of granite, quartzite and other rocks running to the south of Peterhead, interrupted only by the sandy beach of Cruden Bay. The low, broken cliffs (generally less than 50 m high) show many erosion features such as stacks, arches, caves and blowholes. The varied coastal vegetation on the ledges and cliff tops includes maritime heath, grassland and brackish flushes. The site is of importance as a nesting area for a number of seabird species (gulls and auks). These birds feed outside the SPA in the nearby waters, as well as more distantly.

### 2. Qualifying species

*Assemblage qualification: A seabird assemblage of international importance*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 seabirds

During the breeding season, the area regularly supports 95,000 individual seabirds (Count, as at mid-1980s) including: Guillemot *Uria aalge*, Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*, Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*, Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*, Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*.

Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Caenlochan

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Aberdeenshire Perth and Kinross Angus	Classified 25/09/1997

Latitude	Longitude
56 52 54 N	03 17 30 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9004011	5975.28



**Component SSSI/ASSIs** Caenlochan  
Glen Callater

Caenlochan is a large area of montane plateau in the Grampian mountains in the east Scottish Highlands. The site is centred on Glas Maol (1,068 m) at the head of Caenlochan Glen. The varied geology and topography, with both acidic and calcareous rocks, presents a diverse range of habitats, with dwarf-shrub and bryophyte heath, mire, grassland, herb-rich communities, open water, snow-bed communities and woodland. The site is particularly notable as one of the best upland botanical sites in Britain. It is one of the most important sites in the EC for its montane/upland birds, supporting an assemblage found in few other areas. This includes breeding Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*, which also use the site as a gathering ground during onward spring migration to Scandinavian breeding areas. It forms part of a network of suitable sites for nesting Dotterel, with birds moving between them at various stages of the breeding season.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*, 40 pairs representing at least 4.8% of the breeding population in Great Britain (8 year mean, 1987–1994)

Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*, 6 pairs representing at least 1.5% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count, as at mid-1990s)

## Cairngorms

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Highland Aberdeenshire	Classified 25/09/1997

Latitude	Longitude
57 04 30 N	03 38 30 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9002241	50586.64



Component SSSI/ ASSIs	Cairngorms Eastern Cairngorms North Rothiemurchus pinewood Northern Corries, Cairngorms Glenmore Forest Northern Corries, Cairngorms
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The Cairngorms massif is located in the central Highlands of Scotland, and comprises the largest area of mountain habitats in Britain. The plateau, at over 1,000 m, is divided by deep glacial valleys, and there are several summits that exceed 1,000 m, the largest being Ben MacDui at 1,309 m. The central core of the massif is acidic, base-poor granite, although some peripheral areas (such as the Glen Feshie sector to the west, which is on the Moine Schist) are relatively base-rich. The high elevation, location in the central Highlands and low winter temperatures combine to create the most boreal habitats in Britain. The summit plateau has extensive alpine communities on thin soils, with *Racomitrium lanuginosum* or Three-leaved Rush *Juncus trifidus* heaths, as well as more sparse vegetation cover, on the porous gravel soils at over 1,100 m. Extensive snow bed communities are major features on the highest slopes and corries sheltered from the sun. On the high ground, there are also mires and springs, with grasslands on the corrie walls, while down through the middle slopes there is Heather *Calluna vulgaris* or Bilberry *Vaccinium myrtillus* heath with a decreasing proportion of lichens at lower altitudes. Pine *Pinus* sp. and Birch *Betula pendula* woodlands occur on parts of the lower slopes, where formerly there was more extensive forest cover. There are also wet heaths and blanket mire on the wetter ground of the lower regions. Mountain lakes and streams have their own distinctive flora and fauna, with the upper reaches of the larger watercourses deeply eroded by occasional flash floods after heavy rainfall. The flora and invertebrate fauna are rich in montane species as well as characteristic elements associated with bogs, heaths and pinewoods. The breeding montane birds occur on the plateaux and high tops, while raptors (including nesting Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*) and pinewood specialists (including Scottish Crossbill *Loxia scotica* – Britain's only endemic bird species) are well represented elsewhere within this massif.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Capercaillie *Tetrao urogallus*, 125 individuals representing at least 5.7% of the breeding population in Great Britain

- Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*, 240 pairs representing at least 28.6% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count, as at 1995)
- Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*, 12 pairs representing at least 3.0% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count, as at 1995)
- Merlin *Falco columbarius*, 14 pairs representing at least 1.1% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count, as at 1995)
- Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*, 2 pairs representing at least 2.0% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count as at early 1990's)
- Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*, 12 pairs representing at least 1.0% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count, as at 1995)
- Scottish Crossbill *Loxia scotica*, 50 pairs representing at least 16.7% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count as at ??)

## Caithness and Sutherland Peatlands

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Highland	Classified 02/02/1999

Latitude	Longitude
58 20 10 N	03 56 15 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9001151	145516.75



#### Component SSSI/ ASSIs

A'Mhoine  
 Bad na Gallaig  
 Badanloch Bogs  
 Ben Griams  
 Ben Hutig  
 Ben Loyal  
 Blar nam Faoileag  
 Cnoc an Alaskie  
 Coir an Eoin  
 Coire na Beinne Mires  
 Druim na Coibe  
 Druim nam Bad  
 Dunbeath Peatlands  
 East Halladale  
 Forsinard Bogs  
 Grudie Peatlands  
 Knockfin Heights  
 Loch Caluim Flows  
 Loch Meadie Peatlands  
 Lochan Buidhe Mires  
 Lon a'Chuil  
 Mallart  
 Moss of Killiminster  
 Oliclett  
 Rumsdale Peatlands  
 Shielton Peatlands  
 Skelpick Peatlands  
 Skinsdale Peatlands  
 Sletill Peatlands  
 Strath an Loin  
 Strath Duchally  
 Strathmore Peatlands  
 Strathy Bogs  
 Stroupster Peatlands  
 Syre Peatlands  
 Truderscaig  
 West Borgie  
 West Halladale  
 West Strathnaver

The Caithness & Sutherland Peatlands are located across the northernmost parts of mainland Scotland. The SPA contains a large proportion of these peatlands, which form one of the largest and most intact areas of blanket bog in the world. The peatlands include an exceptionally wide range of vegetation and surface pattern types (pool systems), some of which are unknown elsewhere. This range of structurally diverse peatland and freshwater habitats supports a wide variety of breeding birds including internationally important populations of raptors, wildfowl and waders.

## 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

### *During the breeding season;*

- Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*, 26 pairs representing at least 16.3% of the breeding population in Great Britain (11 year mean, 1986–1996)
- Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*, 5 pairs representing at least 1.3% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count, as at 1992)
- Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, 1,064 pairs representing at least 4.7% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count, as at mid-1990s)
- Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*, 14 pairs representing at least 2.8% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year mean, 1993–1997)
- Merlin *Falco columbarius*, 54 pairs representing at least 4.2% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count, as at early 1990s)
- Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*, 89 pairs representing at least 9.5% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Two year mean, 1993–1994)
- Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*, 30 pairs representing at least 3.0% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count, as at mid-1990s)
- Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*, 5 pairs representing up to 50.0% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Two year mean, 1994–1995)

This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

### *During the breeding season;*

- Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*, 27 pairs representing <0.1% of the breeding Western Siberia/Western & Northern Europe/Northwestern Africa population (1996)
- Dunlin *Calidris alpina schinzii*, 1,860 pairs representing at least 16.9% of the breeding Baltic/UK/Ireland population (Count, as at 1994)
- Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*, 256 pairs representing at least 0.4% of the breeding Europe/Western Africa population (1994/95)
- Wigeon *Anas penelope*, 43 pairs representing <0.1% of the breeding Western Siberia/Northwestern/Northeastern Europe population (1994)

## Caithness Lochs

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Highland	Classified 02/02/1998

Latitude	Longitude
58 29 30 N	03 20 00 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9001171	1378.45



Component SSSI/ ASSIs	
	Broubster Leans
	Loch of Mey
	Loch Calder
	Loch Heilen
	Loch of Wester
	Loch Scarmclate
	Loch Watten

Caithness Lochs are located in lowland Caithness in northern Scotland. The site comprises Broubster Leans, a complex area of mire and fen developed on a river floodplain; Loch of Mey, a shallow ephemeral loch fringed by fen and marshy grassland; Loch Watten, a large, shallow, base-rich loch; Loch Scarmclate, a shallow mesotrophic marl loch; Loch Calder, an oligotrophic loch deeper than the other lochs within the site; and Loch of Wester and Loch Heilen, shallow mesotrophic sand lochs. In winter, Broubster Leans and Loch of Mey are subject to prolonged inundation and provide sheltered undisturbed roosting sites for two separate flocks of Greenland White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons flavirostris*. As such, these constitute the two most important roost sites for this goose population in northern Scotland. In harsh conditions, the Broubster Leans flock roost on Loch Calder and some of the Loch of Mey flock occasionally roost at Loch Heilen. Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus* use all components of the site but the largest numbers occur at Loch of Wester with large numbers also occurring on Loch Heilen and Loch Calder. Icelandic Greylag Goose *Anser anser* use all the lochs within the site as roosts during the winter, with Loch Watten, Loch Scarmclate, Loch Calder and Loch Heilen all supporting internationally important numbers. The geese and swans feed in surrounding areas of agricultural land and other wetlands outside the SPA, as well as within the SPA.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

#### Over winter;

Greenland White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons flavirostris*, 183 individuals representing at least 1.3% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*, 250 individuals representing at least 4.5% of the wintering population in Great Britain (WeBS 5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*Over winter;*

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*, 6,872 individuals representing at least 6.9% of the wintering Iceland/UK/Ireland population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

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Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Calf of Eday

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Orkney Islands	Classified 29/06/1998

Latitude	Longitude
59 14 24 N	02 43 48 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9002431	238.03



**Component SSSI/ASSIs** Calf of Eday

The Calf of Eday is a small, uninhabited island located to the north of the island of Eday in the Orkney archipelago in northern Scotland. The island has a rocky coastline with cliffs on the north and east coasts. The dominant vegetation on the island is dry dwarf-shrub heath dominated by Heather *Calluna vulgaris*, with smaller areas of wet heath, semi-improved grassland and coastal grassland. The site is of importance as a nesting area for breeding seabirds, which feed in surrounding waters outside the SPA and use most of the island for loafing. Gulls and Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* nest in the dry heath and grassland areas, whilst Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*, Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla* and auks nest on the cliffs.

### 2. Qualifying species

*Assemblage qualification: A seabird assemblage of international importance*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 seabirds

During the breeding season, the area regularly supports 30,000 individual seabirds (Estimate, as at 1997) including: Guillemot *Uria aalge*, Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*, Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*, Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*, Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*.

Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

# Cameron Reservoir

## 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Fife	Classified 14/03/1994

Latitude	Longitude
56 17 32 N	02 51 12 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9004131	68.76



**Component SSSI/ASSIs** Cameron Reservoir

Cameron Reservoir is located in upland Fife in south-east Scotland. It is a water supply reservoir created by impounding freshwater from upland streams. This has formed an artificial mesotrophic loch with beds of aquatic and marginal vegetation. The open water is used as a roost by an internationally important wintering population of Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus* that feed outside the SPA during the day on the surrounding farmland.

## 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*Over winter;*

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*, 16,233 individuals representing at least 7.2% of the wintering Eastern Greenland/Iceland/UK population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Canna and Sanday

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Highland	Classified 20/02/1998

Latitude	Longitude
57 04 00 N	06 30 00 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9001431	1341.27



**Component SSSI/** Canna & Sanday  
**ASSIs**

Canna and Sanday are two adjacent basaltic islands in the Small Isles, north-west of Rum in the Lochaber district of the Scottish Highlands. Canna is ringed with steep cliffs and is capped by a ridge of wet heath and maritime blanket bog. Sanday and low-lying parts of Canna support coastal grassland and maritime heath. The islands are particularly important for their breeding seabird colonies (including gulls, auks and Shag *Phalacrocorax a. aristotelis*). The seabirds feed outside the SPA in the nearby waters, as well as more distantly.

### 2. Qualifying species

*Assemblage qualification: A seabird assemblage of international importance*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 seabirds

During the breeding season, the area regularly supports 21,000 individual seabirds including: Puffin *Fratercula arctica*, Guillemot *Uria aalge*, Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*, Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*, Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*.

Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

# Cape Wrath

## 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Highland	Classified 15/03/1996

Latitude	Longitude
58 36 00 N	04 53 30 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9001231	1019.18



**Component SSSI/ ASSIs** Cape Wrath

Cape Wrath lies at the north-westernmost tip of mainland Scotland in Sutherland. The site comprises two stretches of Torridonian sandstone and Lewisian gneiss cliffs (of c. 15 km length) around the headland of Cape Wrath. These cliffs provide suitable nest sites for large numbers of breeding seabirds. West of Cape Wrath, the cliffs are broken with undercliffs vegetated by Heather *Calluna vulgaris*, Juniper *Juniperus communis* and ferns, whilst east of the headland, far more precipitous cliffs rise to about 200 m. Cape Wrath is especially important for gulls and auks. The seabirds feed outside the SPA in the nearby waters and more distantly in the North Atlantic.

## 2. Qualifying species

*Assemblage qualification: A seabird assemblage of international importance*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 seabirds

During the breeding season, the area regularly supports 50,000 individual seabirds including: Puffin *Fratercula arctica*, Razorbill *Alca torda*, Guillemot *Uria aalge*, Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*, Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*.

Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Castle Loch, Lochmaben

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Dumfries and Galloway	Classified 15/03/1996

Latitude	Longitude
55 07 12 N	03 25 50 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9003191	107.6



**Component SSSI/ASSIs** Castle Loch

Castle Loch, Lochmaben is located in south-west Scotland about 10 km east of Dumfries. Castle Loch has eutrophic water conditions, with extensive fringes of emergent vegetation dominated by Common Reed *Phragmites australis* and Reed Sweet-grass *Glyceria maxima*. These merge into marshy grassland with a wide range of wetland plants, with a further transition to carr woodland with willows, Birch *Betula pendula* and Alder *Alnus glutinosa*. An area of mature deciduous woodland has established on the drier ground. Castle Loch is a winter roost for large numbers of the Iceland/Greenland population of Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*. During the day the geese feed outside the SPA on the surrounding farmland.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*Over winter;*

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*, 5,450 individuals representing at least 2.4% of the wintering Eastern Greenland/Iceland/UK population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Cnuic agus Cladach Mhuile (Mull Coast and Hills)

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Argyll and Bute	not yet available

Latitude	Longitude
56 26 34 N	05 59 48 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9003311	to be confirmed upon site classification.



**Component SSSI/ ASSIs** To be confirmed on classification

The Cnuic agus Cladach Mhuile SPA is a large upland site on the island of Mull in the Inner Hebrides. The site rises from sea level to 966 m and comprises four separate sections: Ardmeanach, Ardura-Auchnacraig, Ben More-Scarisdale and South Mull Coast. The site thus supports a diverse range of habitats including moorland, grassland and woodland, freshwater lochs and lochans, saltmarsh and rocky coast. . Much of the land is used as rough grazing for sheep and cattle, and in some areas livestock densities are relatively high. This is also the case for Red Deer *Cervus elaphus* which occur throughout. The site supports a breeding population of European importance of the Annex I species Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*. This is one of the highest density populations of Golden Eagle in the UK, with an unusually high breeding productivity for a population on the west coast of Scotland. Golden Eagles nest, roost, display and from the hilltops to the coastal margins at sea level. Each of the pairs occurring within the site has more than one eyrie located on cliffs and ledges throughout the SPA. Birds also hunt outside the SPA over adjacent agricultural land. This site has a long history of occupation by Golden Eagles (the presence and productivity of which have been monitored for at least 20 years) and is important in maintaining the species' European range.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*, 9 pairs representing at least 2.3% of the breeding population in Great Britain (1992)

## Coll

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Argyll and Bute	Classified 31/03/1995

Latitude	Longitude
56 39 16 N	06 30 05 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9003031	2321.88



**Component SSSI/ASSIs** Crossapol & Gunna  
North East Coll Lochs & Moors

The island of Coll lies in the Inner Hebrides of western Scotland, north-west of Mull in Argyll and Bute. The SPA comprises an extensive area of maritime heath, blanket mire and open water in north-east Coll and the small islands of Gunna and Soy Gunna off the south-west coast. The site supports internationally important numbers of Greenland Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis* and Greenland White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons flavirostris*, both of which roost within the site. The feeding areas of both goose species lie outside the SPA in other localities of Coll and Tiree.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

#### *Over winter;*

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*, 1,029 individuals representing at least 3.8% of the wintering population in Great Britain (winter peak means)

Greenland White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons flavirostris*, 789 individuals representing at least 5.6% of the wintering population in Great Britain (winter peak means)

Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Coll (corncrake)

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Argyll and Bute	Classified 27/03/2000

Latitude	Longitude
56 36 10 N	06 37 15 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9003033	371.13



**Component SSSI/** Non-SSSI  
**ASSIs**

The island of Coll lies in the Inner Hebrides of western Scotland, west of Mull in Argyll and Bute. The SPA lies towards the south-west of the island. It includes areas of agricultural hay meadows, silage fields, pasture, arable fields, marsh, *Iris* beds and rock outcrops. Some of the grassland areas support populations of the nationally rare Irish Lady's-tresses *Spiranthes romanzoffiana*. It is of European importance for breeding Corncrake *Crex crex*.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Corncrake *Crex crex*, 24 individuals representing at least 5.0% of the breeding population in Great Britain (1993–1997)

## Copinsay

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Orkney Islands	Classified 29/03/1994

Latitude	Longitude
58 54 00 N	02 40 30 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9002151	125.42



**Component SSSI/ASSIs** Copinsay

Copinsay lies 4 km off the east coast of Orkney mainland in northern Scotland. It consists of the island of Copinsay and three islets (Corn Holm, Ward Holm and Black Holm). The three holms are vegetated and a storm beach connects them to Copinsay at low water. The islands have good examples of unimproved sub-maritime grasslands and coastal inundation grasslands with a number of distinct vegetation zones. Copinsay is formed of Old Red Sandstone with the largely horizontal bedding planes providing ideal breeding ledges for seabirds (auks and Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*), especially on the sheer cliffs of the south-east of Copinsay which reach to over 60 m. The seabirds feed outside the SPA in the nearby waters, as well as more distantly.

### 2. Qualifying species

*Assemblage qualification: A seabird assemblage of international importance*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 seabirds

During the breeding season, the area regularly supports 70,000 individual seabirds including: Guillemot *Uria aalge*, Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*, Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*, Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*.

Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

# Creag Meagaidh

## 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Highland	Classified 30/03/1998

Latitude	Longitude
56 57 00 N	04 35 00 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9002161	2872.64



**Component SSSI/** Creag Meagaidh  
**ASSIs**

Creag Meagaidh is a montane massif north of Loch Laggan in the Badenoch & Strathspey district of the Scottish Highlands. There is a wide range of habitats, including grassland, heath, cliff vegetation, snow-bed vegetation, woodland and, on the broad summit plateau, bryophyte heath. The uninterrupted transition of natural and semi-natural vegetation from the shores of Loch Laggan to the summit (at 1,130 m) is a particularly notable feature, as is the north-eastern corrie, Coire Ardair, with its 400 m cliffs. The site is important for its assemblage of montane birds, in particular an important breeding population of Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*.

## 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*, 23 pairs representing at least 2.7% of the breeding population in Great Britain (8 year mean, 1987–1994)

## Cromarty Firth

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Highland	Classified 22/03/1999

Latitude	Longitude
57 41 00 N	04 12 00 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9001623	3766.24



**Component SSSI/ASSIs** Lower River Conon  
Cromarty Firth  
Rosemarkie to Shandwick

Cromarty Firth is located in north-eastern Scotland and is one of the major firths on the east shore of the Moray Firth. It contains a range of high-quality coastal habitats including extensive intertidal mud-flats and shingle bordered locally by areas of saltmarsh, as well as reedbeds around Dingwall. The rich invertebrate fauna of the intertidal flats, with beds of eelgrass *Zostera* spp., glasswort *Salicornia* spp., and *Enteromorpha* algae, all provide important food sources for large numbers of wintering and migrating waterbirds (swans, geese, ducks and waders). With adjacent estuarine areas elsewhere in the Moray Firth, it is the most northerly major wintering area for wildfowl and waders in Europe. The Firth is also of importance as a feeding area for locally breeding Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* as well as for breeding terns.

Cromarty Firth SPA forms an integral ecological component of Moray Basin Firths and Bays.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

#### *During the breeding season;*

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*, 294 pairs representing at least 2.4% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year mean, 1989–1993)

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*, 1 pairs representing at least 1.0% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Early 1990s)

#### *Over winter;*

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*, 1,420 individuals representing at least 2.7% of the wintering population in Great Britain (winter peak mean)

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*, 55 individuals representing at least 1.0% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*Over winter;*

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*, 1,777 individuals representing at least 1.8% of the wintering Iceland/UK/Ireland population (winter peak mean)

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*Assemblage qualification: A wetland of international importance.*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 waterfowl

Over winter, the area regularly supports 34,847 individual waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6) including: Redshank *Tringa totanus*, Curlew *Numenius arquata*, Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*, Knot *Calidris canutus*, Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*, Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*, Scaup *Aythya marila*, Pintail *Anas acuta*, Wigeon *Anas penelope*, Greylag Goose *Anser anser*, Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*, Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus* .

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Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Cuillins

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Highland	not yet available

Latitude	Longitude
57 14 37 N	06 08 46 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9001781	to be confirmed upon site classification.



**Component SSSI/ASSIs** To be confirmed on classification

The Cuillins SPA is located on the island of Skye in the northern Inner Hebrides of west Scotland. It is a large, predominantly upland site rising from sea level to over 900 m. It encompasses a diverse range of habitats including heather moorland, rough grassland, blanket bog, coastal woodland, freshwater lochs and lochans, conifer plantations, montane heaths and exposed rock and scree. The mountains of the Cuillins extend in an irregular semi-circle, some ten kilometres in length, with a series of narrow summit ridges, deeply cut corries and massive cliffs and screes. Above 400 m altitude, the well-drained slopes support grasslands or species-poor heaths. The lower slopes are covered by various different types of bog and fen communities. Most of the site is grazed by sheep and Red Deer *Cervus elaphus*. More intensive cattle and sheep farming takes place in Glen Drynoch, an area of semi-intensified grassland with high grazing levels, and Glen Brittle. The site is of European importance for its breeding population of Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*, holding one of the highest-density populations in Britain with an unusually high breeding productivity for a west coast population. Golden Eagles nest, roost, display and hunt throughout the site, from the hilltops to the coastal margins at sea level. Each pair may have more than one eyrie, and these are located on cliffs and ledges throughout the site. Birds also hunt outside the SPA on adjacent agricultural land. The site has a long history of occupancy (presence and productivity have been monitored for at least 19 years) and is important in maintaining the species' European range.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*, 11 pairs representing at least 2.8% of the breeding population in Great Britain (1992)

## Din Moss – Hoselaw Loch

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Scottish Borders	Classified 14/07/1988

Latitude	Longitude
55 34 33 N	02 18 30 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9004291	50.59



**Component SSSI/** Din Moss & Hoselaw Loch  
**ASSIs**

Din Moss – Hoselaw Loch is located on the northern slopes of the Cheviot Hills in southern Scotland. Hoselaw Loch is a mid-altitude (c. 180 m a.s.l.) loch that is surrounded by Din Moss – an area of raised bog with associated lagg fens. It is one of the most complete examples of a raised mire in this area of Scotland. The loch is used as a wintering roost by large numbers of both Icelandic/Greenland Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus* and Icelandic Greylag Goose *Anser anser*. The geese feed in surrounding areas of agricultural land outside the SPA.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

#### *Over winter;*

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*, 1,081 individuals representing at least 1.1% of the wintering Iceland/UK/Ireland population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*, 1,180 individuals representing at least 0.5% of the wintering Eastern Greenland/Iceland/UK population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Dornoch Firth and Loch Fleet

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Highland	Classified 24/03/1997

Latitude	Longitude
57 51 00 N	04 02 30 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9001622	7836.33



Component SSSI/ ASSIs	Dornoch Firth Loch Fleet Morrich More Mound Alderwoods Tarbat Ness
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The Dornoch Firth is located in north-eastern Scotland and is one of the two northernmost estuaries in the Moray Basin ecosystem. The Dornoch Firth and Loch Fleet SPA is one of the best examples in northwest Europe of a large complex estuary which has been relatively unaffected by industrial development, whilst Loch Fleet itself is an example of a shallow, bar-built estuary. Extensive sand-flats and mud-flats are backed by saltmarsh and sand dunes with transitions to dune heath and Alder *Alnus glutinosa* woodland. The tidal flats support internationally important numbers of waterbirds on migration and in winter, and are the most northerly and substantial extent of intertidal habitat for wintering waterbirds in the UK, as well as Europe. The Firth is also of importance as a feeding area for locally breeding Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*.

Dornoch Firth and Loch Fleet SPA forms an integral ecological component of Moray Basin Firths and Bays of which it forms the most northerly component area.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*, 10 pairs representing at least 10.0% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count as at early 1990's)

*Over winter;*

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*, 1,300 individuals representing at least 2.5% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*Over winter;*

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*, 2,079 individuals representing at least 2.1% of the wintering Iceland/UK/Ireland population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Wigeon *Anas penelope*, 15,304 individuals representing at least 1.2% of the wintering Western Siberia/Northwestern/Northeastern Europe population (5 year peak mean 1989/90–1993/4)

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*Assemblage qualification: A wetland of international importance.*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 waterfowl

Over winter, the area regularly supports 34,837 individual waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6) including: Curlew *Numenius arquata*, Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*, Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*, Teal *Anas crecca*, Wigeon *Anas penelope*, Greylag Goose *Anser anser*, Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*.

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Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Drumochter Hills

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Perth and Kinross Highland	Classified 25/09/1997

Latitude	Longitude
56 51 54 N	04 14 48 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9002301	9445.56



**Component SSSI/ASSIs** Drumochter Hills

The Drumochter Hills are located either side of the Drumochter Pass in the central Highlands of Scotland. They consist of gently rounded summits, generally between 900–950 m, though the full altitudinal range of the area is 360–1,010 m. The hills are divided by steep-sided stream gullies as well as by the Pass. The principal underlying rock is metamorphosed sandstone, and hence the vegetation is dominated by acidic communities. The most extensive are the mid-altitude heather dominated heaths and the montane heaths and grasslands above 750 m, but there are also substantial areas of mire and wet heath on gently sloping or level ground. The montane communities include heaths, grasslands, moss heaths, and blanket mires, forming complex mosaics dependent upon exposure and drainage. Of particular note are the extensive high-altitude blanket mires (for which this is one of the few sites in the UK), and the widespread development (exceeding 100 ha) of upland *Racomitrium lanuginosum*-*Carex bigelowii* heath. At lower levels, some Birch *Betula pendula* woodland and grassland with Bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* and scattered trees are found, especially above the shores of Loch Erich, with further variety provided by other habitats such as crags and screes, acidic and calcareous springs and flushes, and standing and running water. There are also Bilberry *Vaccinium myrtillus* heaths. The lichen-rich variants of these heaths are a feature of the eastern Highlands, as is Bilberry-dominated snow bed vegetation. Variation within the principal vegetation types depends upon such factors as aspect, slope and exposure. The dry heath, with hypnaceous mosses, contrast with damp heaths supporting *Sphagnum* mosses and Cloudberry *Rubus chamaemorus*. The Drumochter Hills are important for breeding Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus* and also support populations of wide-ranging raptors, including Merlin *Falco columbarius*.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*, 70 pairs representing at least 8.3% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count, as at mid-1990s)

Merlin *Falco columbarius*, 7 pairs representing at least 0.5% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count, as at mid-1990s)

## East Caithness Cliffs

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Highland	Classified 27/03/1996

Latitude	Longitude
58 16 49 N	03 20 21 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9001182	442.62



<b>Component SSSI/ASSIs</b>	Berriedale Cliffs Castle of Old Wick to Craig Hammel Craig Hammel to Sgaps Geo Dunbeath to Sgaps Geo
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The East Caithness Cliffs SPA is located on the east coast of Caithness in northern Scotland. The site comprises most of the sea-cliff areas between Wick and Helmsdale. The cliffs are formed from Old Red Sandstone and are generally between 30–60 m high, rising to 150 m at Berriedale. Cliff ledges, stacks and geos provide ideal nesting sites for internationally important populations of seabirds, especially gulls and auks. The seabirds nesting on the East Caithness Cliffs feed outside the SPA in inshore waters as well as further away. The cliffs also provide important nesting habitat for Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*. The cliffs overlook the Moray Firth, an area that provides rich feeding areas for fish-eating seabirds.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*, 6 pairs representing at least 0.5% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Mid-1990s)

This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*During the breeding season;*

Guillemot *Uria aalge*, 71,509 pairs representing at least 3.2% of the breeding East Atlantic population (Count as at 1986)

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*, 9,370 pairs representing at least 1.0% of the breeding Northwestern Europe (breeding) and Iceland/Western Europe – breeding population (Count, as at 1986)

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*, 31,930 pairs representing at least 1.0% of the breeding Eastern Atlantic – Breeding population (Count, as at 1986)

Razorbill *Alca torda*, 9,259 pairs representing at least 1.6% of the breeding population (1986)

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*, 2,345 pairs representing at least 1.9% of the breeding Northern Europe population (Count as at 1986)

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*Assemblage qualification: A seabird assemblage of international importance*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 seabirds

During the breeding season, the area regularly supports 300,000 individual seabirds including: Puffin *Fratercula arctica*, Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*, Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*, Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*, Razorbill *Alca torda*, Guillemot *Uria aalge*, Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*, Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*, Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*.

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Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## East Sanday Coast

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Orkney Islands	Classified 11/08/1997

Latitude	Longitude
59 16 00 N	02 34 00 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9002331	1515.23



<b>Component SSSI/ASSIs</b>	Central Sanday Northwall & Central Sanday East Sanday Coast
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East Sanday Coast SPA is located on the island of Sanday in the Orkney Islands of northern Scotland. The site comprises a 55 km stretch of coast, and consists of both rocky and sandy sections. It is notable for the presence of sand dune and machair habitats, rare outside the Hebrides, as well as extensive intertidal flats and saltmarsh. The site is further characterised by a series of tombolos, bars, spits and shingle ridges. The coastline supports internationally important populations of wintering waders.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

#### *Over winter;*

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*, 600 individuals representing at least 1.1% of the wintering population in Great Britain (Winter peak mean 1991/2–1993/4)

This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

#### *Over winter;*

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*, 840 individuals representing at least 1.7% of the wintering Eastern Atlantic – wintering population (winter peak means)

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*, 1,400 individuals representing at least 2.0% of the wintering Western Palearctic – wintering population (Three year peak mean, 1991/2–1993/4)

Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Eilean na Muice Duibhe (Duich Moss), Islay

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Argyll and Bute	Classified 14/07/1988

Latitude	Longitude
55 43 20 N	06 15 20 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9003054	576.42



**Component SSSI/ASSIs** Eilean na Muice Duibhe

Eilean na Muice Duibhe is located on the Hebridean island of Islay on the west coast of Scotland. It is a patterned mire (peatland with extensive pool systems) occurring at the south-western limit of the distribution of this peatland habitat in the UK. The diverse nature of the peatland habitat includes hummocks, ridges and deep watershed pools as well as an unusual transition from blanket bog to raised mire habitats. Eilean na Muice Duibhe is one of the largest single roost sites in the UK for Greenland White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons flavirostris*. The main feeding grounds for these birds are on surrounding agricultural areas although significant feeding also occurs on the roost site.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*Over winter;*

Greenland White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons flavirostris*, 1,300 individuals representing at least 9.3% of the wintering population in Great Britain (Count as at 1984)

Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Eoligarry, Barra

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Comhairle Nan Eilean/Western Isles	Classified 29/03/1999

Latitude	Longitude
57 02 50 N	07 25 48 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9001761	144.04



**Component SSSI/** Non-SSSI (Corncrake)  
**ASSIs**

Eoligarry is located at the northern tip of the island of Barra, the most southerly of the major islands of the Outer Hebrides off the north-west coast of Scotland. The site comprises sand dunes, cultivated machair and croftland, together with small areas of wetland and rough pasture. This combination of cultivation, including hayfields with damp grassland and marsh, provides habitat that supports a breeding population of Corncrake *Crex crex* of European importance.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Corncrake *Crex crex*, 28 individuals representing at least 5.8% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year mean, 1993–1997)

## Fair Isle

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Shetland Islands	Classified 16/12/1994

Latitude	Longitude
59 32 15 N	01 37 00 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9002091	561.27



**Component SSSI/** Fair Isle  
**ASSIs**

Fair Isle is located in the North Sea, halfway between the Shetland mainland and the Orkney Islands in northern Scotland. It is partly composed of Old Red Sandstone that has weathered to produce a greatly indented coastline with many geos, stacks and crags. The island is of major importance as a breeding area for seabirds, including skuas, terns, gulls and auks. It is also notable for its endemic race of Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes fridariensis*. The seabirds nest both on the cliffs and crags around the island as well as on moorland and maritime grassland areas, and feed in the waters around the island, outside the SPA. The SPA includes the entire coastline of the island together with an extensive area of moorland and grassland in the north of the island.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*, 1,120 pairs representing at least 2.5% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year mean, 1993–1997)

Fair Isle Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes fridariensis*, 37 individuals representing 100.0% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count, as at 1997)

This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*During the breeding season;*

Guillemot *Uria aalge*, 25,165 pairs representing at least 1.1% of the breeding East Atlantic population (Count as at 1994)

*Assemblage qualification: A seabird assemblage of international importance*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 seabirds

During the breeding season, the area regularly supports 180,000 individual seabirds including: Puffin *Fratercula arctica*, Razorbill *Alca torda*, Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*, Great Skua *Catharacta skua*, Arctic

Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*, Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*, Gannet *Morus bassana*, Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*, Guillemot *Uria aalge*, Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*.

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Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Fala Flow

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Midlothian	Classified 25/04/1990

Latitude	Longitude
55 49 00 N	02 54 20 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9004241	318.04



**Component SSSI/ASSIs** Fala Flow

Fala Flow is located in the Lammermuir Hills of the Scottish Southern Uplands, south-east of Edinburgh. It is blanket mire, with some pools, developed at a lower altitude than most blanket mires in Midlothian. The vegetation comprises Heather *Calluna vulgaris* and Hare's-tail Cottongrass *Eriophorum vaginatum* with other characteristic species including Crowberry *Empetrum nigrum* and *Sphagnum* mosses. Such mires are scarce and declining in Midlothian and this example is relatively undisturbed. The mire and pools support an internationally important roost of the Iceland/Greenland population of Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*. The geese feed in surrounding areas of agricultural land outside the SPA.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*Over winter;*

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*, 6,719 individuals representing at least 3.0% of the wintering Eastern Greenland/Iceland/UK population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

# Fetlar

## 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Shetland Islands	Classified 29/03/1994

Latitude	Longitude
60 36 35 N	00 51 20 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9002031	2594.91

**Component SSSI/ASSIs**  
Lamb Hoga  
North Fetlar  
Trona Mires



Fetlar is one of the northernmost of the Shetland Islands in northern Scotland. The SPA comprises a range of habitats including species-rich heathland, marshes and lochans, cliffs and rocky shores. The principal areas of importance for birds are the northernmost part of the island and the south-western peninsula of Lamb Hoga. Most of the north of the island is vegetated by heathland and relatively species-poor grasslands owing to the influence of underlying serpentine-base-rich rocks. In wetter areas, small lochs and sedge-rich mires are present. Around the coasts are floristically rich maritime grasslands and heathlands. Lamb Hoga has heather moorland with areas of Cottongrass *Eriophorum* spp. dominated blanket bog. Fetlar SPA is of importance for a number of northern breeding waders, as well as breeding seabirds, which nest especially on the moorlands as well as in some of the other wetlands.

## 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*, 520 pairs representing at least 1.2% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Three year mean, 1994–1997)

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*, 30 pairs representing at least 75.0% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count, as at mid-1990s)

This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*During the breeding season;*

Dunlin *Calidris alpina schinzii*, 90 pairs representing at least 0.8% of the breeding Baltic/UK/Ireland population (Count, as at late 1980s-early 1990s)

Great Skua *Catharacta skua*, 512 pairs representing at least 3.8% of the breeding World population (Count, as at 1992)

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*, 65 pairs representing <0.1% of the breeding Europe/Western Africa population (Count, as at late 1980s-early 1990s)

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*Assemblage qualification: A seabird assemblage of international importance*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 seabirds

During the breeding season, the area regularly supports 22,000 individual seabirds including: Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*, Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*, Great Skua *Catharacta skua*, Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*, Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*.

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Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Firth of Forth

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	City of Edinburgh Clackmannanshire Falkirk Fife Stirling West Lothian East Lothian	not yet available

Latitude	Longitude
56 00 57 N	03 15 59 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9004411	to be confirmed upon site classification.



**Component SSSI/ ASSIs** To be confirmed on classification

The Firth of Forth is located on the east coast of central Scotland. It is a complex estuarine site, stretching for over 100 km from the River Forth at Stirling eastwards past Edinburgh and along the coasts of Fife and East Lothian to a wide estuary mouth. A wide range of coastal and intertidal habitats is found within the site, including saltmarshes, dune systems, maritime grasslands, heath and fen, cliff slopes, shingle and brackish lagoons. Extensive mud-flats occur particularly in the Inner Firth, notably at Kinneil Kerse and Skinflats on the south shore and Torry Bay on the north shore. Typically, the flats support a rich invertebrate fauna, with Eelgrass *Zostera* spp. growing on the main mud-flats, both features providing important food sources for the large numbers of migrating and wintering waterbirds that depend on the estuary. In the Outer Firth, the shoreline diversifies, with sandy shores, some rocky outcrops, mussel beds and some artificial sea walls. The North Berwick coast includes cliffs and dune grassland, with extensive dune systems at Aberlady. The Firth is of major importance for a rich assemblage of waterbirds in the migration periods and through the winter, including divers, sea-ducks, geese, other ducks, waders and terns. Some of these species, notably the sea-ducks and divers, also feed, loaf and roost outside the SPA in the open waters of the estuary.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

#### *On passage;*

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*, 1,611 individuals representing at least 3.8% of the population in Great Britain

#### *Over winter;*

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*, 2,600 individuals representing at least 4.9% of the wintering population in Great Britain (winter peak mean)

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, 2,970 individuals representing at least 1.2% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)  
 Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*, 88 individuals representing at least 1.8% of the wintering population in Great Britain (WeBS 1992 to 1997 mean)  
 Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*, 71 individuals representing at least 17.8% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year mean 1992/3–1996/7)

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This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*Over winter;*

Knot *Calidris canutus*, 8,013 individuals representing at least 2.3% of the wintering Northeastern Canada/Greenland/Iceland/Northwestern Europe population (winter peak mean)  
 Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*, 12,400 individuals representing at least 5.5% of the wintering Eastern Greenland/Iceland/UK population (winter peak mean)  
 Redshank *Tringa totanus*, 3,700 individuals representing at least 2.5% of the wintering Eastern Atlantic – wintering population (winter peak mean)  
 Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*, 3,586 individuals representing at least 1.2% of the wintering Northwestern Europe population (winter peak mean)  
 Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*, 1,286 individuals representing at least 1.8% of the wintering Western Palearctic – wintering population (winter peak mean)

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*Assemblage qualification: A wetland of international importance.*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 waterfowl

Over winter, the area regularly supports 86,067 individual waterfowl (WeBS 1991/2–95/6) including: Scaup *Aythya marila*, Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*, Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*, Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*, Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*, Knot *Calidris canutus*, Redshank *Tringa totanus*, Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*, Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*, Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*, Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*, Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*, Curlew *Numenius arquata*, Eider *Somateria mollissima*, Long-tailed duck *Clangula hyemalis*, Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*, Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*, Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*, Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*, Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*, Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*, Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*, Wigeon *Anas penelope*.

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Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

# Firth of Forth Islands

## 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	East Lothian City of Edinburgh Fife	Classified 25/04/1990

Latitude	Longitude
56 11 10 N	02 33 20 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9004171	105.06



Component SSSI/ ASSIs	Bass Rock Forth Islands Inchmickery Isle of May
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The Firth of Forth Islands are located in or near to the Firth of Forth on the east coast of central Scotland. The SPA comprises a number of separate islands or island groups, principally Inchmickery (together with the nearby Cow and Calves) off Edinburgh, Fidra, Lamb and Craigleith together with the Bass Rock off North Berwick, and the much larger Isle of May in the outer part of the Firth. The site also includes additional other small islands. The inner islands are very low lying whilst those in the outer Firth are higher, steeper and rockier. This applies especially to the Bass Rock which is a volcanic plug rising to over 100 m, and to the Isle of May, which is surrounded by cliffs up to 50 m. The islands support important numbers of a range of breeding seabirds, in particular terns, auks and gulls. The colony of Gannets *Morus bassana* is the largest on the east coast of the UK. The seabirds feed outside the SPA in nearby waters, as well as more distantly in the North Sea.

## 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*, 540 pairs representing at least 1.2% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Mean 1992 to 1996)

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*, 800 pairs representing at least 6.5% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Seabird Census Register)

Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii*, 9 pairs representing at least 15.0% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year mean 1994–1998)

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*, 22 pairs representing at least 0.2% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year mean, 1993–1997)

This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*During the breeding season;*

Gannet *Morus bassana*, 34,400 pairs representing at least 13.1% of the breeding North Atlantic population (Count, as at 1994)

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*, 2,920 pairs representing at least 2.4% of the breeding Western Europe/Mediterranean/Western Africa population (Count, as at 1994)

Puffin *Fratercula arctica*, 21,000 pairs representing at least 2.3% of the breeding population (Count, as at 1992)

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*, 2,887 pairs representing at least 2.3% of the breeding Northern Europe population (Count as at 1987)

*Assemblage qualification: A seabird assemblage of international importance*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 seabirds

During the breeding season, the area regularly supports 90,000 individual seabirds (Three year mean, 1986–1988) including: Razorbill *Alca torda*, Guillemot *Uria aalge*, Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*, Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*, Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*, Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*, Puffin *Fratercula arctica*, Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*, Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*, Gannet *Morus bassana*, Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*, Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*, Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii*, Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*.

Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

# Firth of Tay & Eden Estuary

## 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Dundee Fife Perth and Kinross	Classified 02/02/2000

Latitude	Longitude
56 24 30 N	03 05 00 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9004121	6923.29



Component SSSI/ ASSIs	Barry Links Eden Estuary Inner Tay Monifieth Bay Tayport to Tentsmuir Coast
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The Firth of Tay and Eden Estuary is located on the east coast of central Scotland. The Firth stretches for some 35 km along the estuary from near Newburgh to the estuary mouth. For much of its length the main channel of the estuary lies close to the southern shore and the most extensive intertidal flats are on the north side, west of Dundee. In Monifieth Bay, to the east of Dundee, the substrate becomes sandier and there are also Mussel *Mytilus edulis* beds. The south shore consists of fairly steeply shelving mud and shingle. The Inner Tay Estuary is particularly noted for the continuous dense stands of Common Reed *Phragmites australis* along its northern shore. These reedbeds, inundated during high tides, are amongst the largest in Britain. Eastwards, as conditions become more saline, there are areas of saltmarsh, a relatively scarce habitat in eastern Scotland. The site is of importance in summer for breeding terns and Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*, whilst in the migration periods and in winter the estuary holds major concentrations of waterbirds, especially waders, sea-ducks and geese. Sea-ducks also feed, loaf and roost outside the SPA in the open waters of the Firth.

## 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

### *During the breeding season;*

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*, 44 pairs representing at least 1.8% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Seabird Census Register)

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*, 4 pairs representing at least 2.5% of the breeding population in Great Britain (1997)

### *Over winter;*

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*, 2,400 individuals representing at least 4.5% of the wintering population in Great Britain (winter peak mean)

This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*Over winter;*

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*, 1,355 individuals representing at least 1.4% of the wintering Iceland/UK/Ireland population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*, 3,769 individuals representing at least 1.7% of the wintering Eastern Greenland/Iceland/UK population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Redshank *Tringa totanus*, 1,800 individuals representing at least 1.2% of the wintering Eastern Atlantic – wintering population (winter peak mean)

*Assemblage qualification: A wetland of international importance.*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 waterfowl

Over winter, the area regularly supports 34,074 individual waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6) including: Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*, Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*, Greylag Goose *Anser anser*, Redshank *Tringa totanus*, Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*, Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*, Eider *Somateria mollissima*, Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*, Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*, Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa islandica*, Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*, Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*, Goosander *Mergus merganser*, Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*, Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*, Sanderling *Calidris alba*, Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*, Long-tailed duck *Clangula hyemalis*.

Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Flannan Isles

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Comhairle Nan Eilean/Western Isles	Classified 31/08/1992

Latitude	Longitude
58 17 20 N	07 35 30 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9001021	58.87



**Component SSSI/ASSIs** Flannan Isles

The Flannan Isles are a group of six rocky islands, with outlying skerries, which lie about 30 km west of Lewis in the Outer Hebrides off the north-west coast of Scotland. They provide a strategically placed nesting locality for seabirds, which feed in the rich waters off the Western Isles. The vegetation of the islands is predominantly maritime grassland. The islands are an important nesting area for a variety of seabird species, especially auks, but including Leach's Petrel *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*, for which they are one of only seven known nesting localities in the EU. The seabirds feed outside the SPA in nearby waters, as well as more distantly in the North Atlantic.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Leach's Storm-petrel *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*, 100 pairs representing at least 0.2% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count, as at 1991)

*Assemblage qualification: A seabird assemblage of international importance*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 seabirds

During the breeding season, the area regularly supports 50,000 individual seabirds including: Leach's Storm-petrel *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*, Puffin *Fratercula arctica*, Razorbill *Alca torda*, Guillemot *Uria aalge*, Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*, Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*.

Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Forest of Clunie

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Perth and Kinross	not yet available

Latitude	Longitude
56 39 34 N	03 33 55 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9004391	to be confirmed upon site classification.



**Component SSSI/ ASSIs** To be confirmed on classification

The Forest of Clunie comprises a large area of upland moorland in Perthshire, extending north from the Dunkeld-Blairstown road to the southern slopes of Ben Vrackie in the north-west and Spittal of Glenshee in the north-east. The area is covered mainly by heather moorland and rough grassland, with scattered small stands of woodland, two areas of recent native pinewood plantation and several small lochs. The site is of international importance for its outstanding assemblage of breeding raptors, including Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*, Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*, Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus* and Merlin *Falco columbarius*. The Osprey population nests within the SPA, but the birds forage mostly outside the site on nearby rivers and waterbodies.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*, 28 pairs representing at least 5.6% of the breeding population in Great Britain (1998 national survey)

Merlin *Falco columbarius*, 12 pairs representing at least 0.9% of the breeding population in Great Britain (1998 survey)

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*, 7 pairs representing at least 7.0% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count as at 1998)

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*, 20 pairs representing at least 2.0% of the breeding population in Great Britain (RSPB mid 1990s est.)

# Foula

## 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Shetland Islands	Classified 27/11/1995

Latitude	Longitude
60 08 20 N	02 05 00 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9002061	1323.31



**Component SSSI/** Foula  
**ASSIs**

Foula is the most westerly of the Shetland Islands, which are situated to the north of the Scottish mainland and Orkney. It lies 20 km west of the Shetland mainland and is the most isolated inhabited island in the UK. The island is formed of Old Red Sandstone with a low-lying eastern side rising steeply to a central ridge and terminating on the western coast in sea-cliffs, including the second highest sea-cliff in the UK (The Kame at 317 m a.s.l). The cool oceanic climate has produced extensive peat formation and much of the island is covered in different types of bog vegetation, largely dominated by Hare's-tail Cottongrass *Eriophorum vaginatum* and Crowberry *Empetrum nigrum*, although with very little Heather *Calluna vulgaris*. At higher altitudes the vegetation becomes sub-maritime, whilst near cliff-tops it is highly spray-influenced. The island is important for a wide range of breeding seabirds, with different species nesting in different parts of the island. It is one of only seven known nesting localities in the EU for Leach's Petrel *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*. The seabirds feed outside the SPA in nearby waters, as well as more distantly in the North Atlantic.

## 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*, 1,100 pairs representing at least 2.5% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year mean, 1992–1996)

Leach's Storm-petrel *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*, 50 pairs representing at least 0.1% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count as at 1976)

Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*, 11 pairs representing at least 1.2% of the breeding population in Great Britain (1994 national survey)

This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*During the breeding season;*

Great Skua *Catharacta skua*, 2,170 pairs representing at least 16.0% of the breeding World population (Count, as at 1992)

Guillemot *Uria aalge*, 25,125 pairs representing at least 1.1% of the breeding East Atlantic population (Count as at 1987)

Puffin *Fratercula arctica*, 48,000 pairs representing at least 5.3% of the breeding population (Count, as at 1987)

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*, 2,400 pairs representing at least 1.9% of the breeding Northern Europe population (1987)

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*Assemblage qualification: A seabird assemblage of international importance*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 seabirds

During the breeding season, the area regularly supports 250,000 individual seabirds including: Leach's Storm-petrel *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*, Razorbill *Alca torda*, Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*, Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*, Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*, Puffin *Fratercula arctica*, Guillemot *Uria aalge*, Great Skua *Catharacta skua*, Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*, Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*.

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Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

# Fowlsheugh

## 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Aberdeenshire	Classified 31/08/1992

Latitude	Longitude
56 54 45 N	02 11 45 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9002271	10.15



**Component SSSI/ ASSIs** Fowlsheugh

Fowlsheugh is located on the east coast of Aberdeenshire in north-east Scotland, overlooking the North Sea. The sheer cliffs, between 30–60 m high, are cut mostly in basalt and conglomerate of Old Red Sandstone age. They form a rock face with diverse structure providing ideal nesting sites for seabirds. The cliffs support major numbers of breeding seabirds, especially gulls and auks. The seabirds feed outside the SPA in nearby waters, as well as more distantly in the North Sea.

## 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*During the breeding season;*

Guillemot *Uria aalge*, 40,140 pairs representing at least 1.8% of the breeding East Atlantic population (Count as at 1992)

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*, 34,870 pairs representing at least 1.1% of the breeding Eastern Atlantic – Breeding population (Count, as at 1992)

*Assemblage qualification: A seabird assemblage of international importance*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 seabirds

During the breeding season, the area regularly supports 170,000 individual seabirds including: Razorbill *Alca torda*, Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*, Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*, Guillemot *Uria aalge*, Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*.

Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Gladhouse Reservoir

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Midlothian	Classified 14/07/1988

Latitude	Longitude
55 47 10 N	03 06 00 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9004231	186.41



**Component SSSI/ASSIs** Gladhouse Reservoir

Gladhouse Reservoir SPA lies in the Moorfoot Hills of the Southern Uplands of Scotland, about 20 km south of Edinburgh. It is a public water-supply reservoir, with limited aquatic and emergent vegetation, although small areas of marginal fen have developed in places. The reservoir is the largest freshwater body in the Lothians and is surrounded by both coniferous and mixed woodland and grassland. It has a number of small islands. The site is an important winter roosting area for Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*. The geese feed in surrounding areas of agricultural land outside the SPA.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*Over winter;*

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*, 3,068 individuals representing at least 1.4% of the wintering Eastern Greenland/Iceland/UK population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Glas Eileanan

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Argyll and Bute	Classified 20/02/1998

Latitude	Longitude
56 29 48 N	05 42 50 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9003211	1.43



**Component SSSI/ASSIs**      Glas Eileanan

Glas Eileanan lies 2 km north of Craignure in the Sound of Mull off the west coast of Scotland. It comprises a group of three small islets, the surface of which is largely maritime grassland, although with many rocky outcrops. The islets are an important breeding area for Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*, supporting one of the largest breeding colonies in the UK. The terns nest over the entire surface of the main islet and feed outside the SPA in nearby waters.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*, 530 pairs representing at least 4.3% of the breeding population in Great Britain

## Glen App – Galloway Moors

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	South Ayrshire Dumfries and Galloway	not yet available

Latitude	Longitude
55 00 19 N	04 56 29 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9003351	to be confirmed upon site classification.



**Component SSSI/** To be confirmed on classification  
**ASSIs**

Glen App – Galloway Moors SPA is located in south-west Scotland. It comprises a large upland area that extends north from Castle Kennedy, in Dumfries and Galloway, to Ballantrae in South Ayrshire. The area is mainly covered by heather moorland and rough grassland. The site comprises three distinct areas of moorland: Penderry Hill, Beneraird/Lagafater, and Braid Fell. The moorlands are generally degraded and grassy, and show the consequences of a long history of management for sheep and Red Grouse *Lagopus lagopus scoticus*. The moorlands once formed a more continuous habitat in the wider upland area, but in recent decades this has been fragmented by afforestation. Penderry Hill is the highest point (309 m) in a range of gentle, low hills to the north of Glen App. Most of this area is covered in degraded heather moorland with areas of rough, agriculturally unimproved grassland. In some areas, agricultural intensification has resulted in the creation of semi-improved grassland, often with an abundance of rushes *Juncus* spp. The site supports a breeding population of European importance of the Annex I species Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*. A diverse range of other upland birds occurs on the moorlands, although not at levels of European importance.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*, 20 pairs representing at least 4.0% of the breeding population in Great Britain (1998 National Survey)

# Glen Tanar

## 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Aberdeenshire	Classified 19/09/1994

Latitude	Longitude
57 01 10 N	02 53 30 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9002771	4180.09



**Component SSSI/** Glen Tanar  
**ASSIs**

Glen Tanar is located in central Aberdeenshire in north-east Scotland. It is a large area of native pinewood with some heather moorland. The Forest of Glen Tanar covers the slopes of Glen Tanar and tributary valleys, rising to a present tree line of about 450 m. It is the third-largest expanse of native pinewood in the UK. Much of the forest is fenced against deer, and regeneration is occurring, giving a more varied range of age classes than in most native pinewoods. Above the tree line there is heather moorland with a series of mires and flushes. In places the pinewood is extending upslope into the moorland. The site is important for a number of specialist birds of native pinewoods, including the endemic Scottish Crossbill *Loxia scotica* (Britain's only endemic bird species), Capercaillie *Tetrao urogallus* and breeding raptors, including nesting Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*.

## 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Capercaillie *Tetrao urogallus*, 85 individuals representing at least 3.9% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count, as at mid-1990s)

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*, 2 pairs representing at least 0.4% of the breeding population in Great Britain (1998 National Survey)

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*, 2 pairs representing at least 2.0% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count as at early 1990's)

Scottish Crossbill *Loxia scotica*, 50 pairs representing at least 16.7% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count as at early 1970's)

## Greenlaw Moor

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Scottish Borders	Classified 15/03/1996

Latitude	Longitude
55 44 06 N	02 27 06 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9004281	247.59



**Component SSSI/** Greenlaw Moor  
**ASSIs**

Greenlaw Moor lies in the southern Lammermuir Hills of the Southern Uplands of Scotland. This area consists of heather moorland to the east of the site and raised mire to the west. The Heather *Calluna vulgaris* moorland is the largest remaining example of its type at mid-altitude in the Scottish Borders. There are two pools at Hule Moss and these support an important wintering roost of Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*. The geese feed in surrounding areas of agricultural land outside the SPA.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*Over winter;*

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*, 5,450 individuals representing at least 2.4% of the wintering Eastern Greenland/Iceland/UK population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Gruinart Flats, Islay

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Argyll and Bute	Classified 14/07/1988

Latitude	Longitude
55 50 42 N	06 19 33 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9003051	3261.32



**Component SSSI/** Gruinart Flats  
**ASSIs**

Gruinart Flats are located on the Hebridean island of Islay on the west coast of Scotland. The SPA comprises a diverse array of coastal habitats typical of western Scotland. The main features are a sheltered estuarine and intertidal sea loch (holding sand- and mud-flats as well as an extensive saltmarsh and sand dunes) surrounded by pastoral farmland and backed by semi-natural upland habitats (including ombrogenous peatlands). The grass fields of the farmland support large wintering goose populations which roost at night on the saltmarsh, whilst the intertidal areas support a diverse assemblage of wintering waterbirds important in a regional context. The entire population of the Greenland race of Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis* arrives at the site in early autumn before dispersing to other wintering areas in Ireland and western Scotland.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

#### *Over winter;*

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*, 20,000 individuals representing at least 74.1% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Greenland White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons flavirostris*, 1,000 individuals representing at least 7.1% of the wintering population in Great Britain (Count, as at mid-1990s)

Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

# Handa

## 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Highland	Classified 25/04/1990

Latitude	Longitude
58 23 00 N	05 11 12 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9001241	367.49



**Component SSSI/ASSIs**      Handa Island

Handa is an island surrounded by high sea-cliffs lying a short distance from the west coast of Sutherland in Scotland. It provides a strategic nesting locality for seabirds that feed in the productive waters of the northern Minch, outside the SPA. Most of the island is vegetated with sub-maritime grasslands and heaths. The SPA's principal ornithological importance is for its breeding seabirds.

## 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*During the breeding season;*

Guillemot *Uria aalge*, 76,105 pairs representing at least 3.4% of the breeding East Atlantic population (Count as at 1994)

Razorbill *Alca torda*, 10,432 pairs representing at least 1.8% of the breeding population (Count as at 1997)

*Assemblage qualification: A seabird assemblage of international importance*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 seabirds

During the breeding season, the area regularly supports 200,000 individual seabirds including: Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*, Great Skua *Catharacta skua*, Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*, Razorbill *Alca torda*, Guillemot *Uria aalge*.

Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Hermaness, Saxa Vord and Valla Field

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Shetland Islands	Classified 29/03/1994

Latitude	Longitude
60 49 19 N	00 54 00 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9002011	1037.7

**Component SSSI/ASSIs** Hermaness  
Saxa Vord



Hermaness, Saxa Vord and Valla Field SPA is located at the northernmost part of the Shetland island of Unst, Scotland, the most northerly part of the UK. The vegetation of Hermaness is mainly *Calluna/Eriophorum* blanket bog, with acidic grassland together with small oligotrophic lochans and streams. More species-rich closely grazed, maritime grasslands line the cliff tops. The cliffs of Hermaness, Saxa Vord and the off-lying stacks (including Muckle Flugga) are mostly 100–200 m high. The site is important for a number of breeding seabird species that nest on both the extensive cliffs as well as on the heathland and grassland parts of the site. The seabirds feed outside the SPA in nearby waters, as well as more distantly elsewhere in the North Atlantic.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*, 28 pairs representing at least 3.0% of the breeding population in Great Britain (1994–1996)

This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*During the breeding season;*

Gannet *Morus bassana*, 12,000 pairs representing at least 4.6% of the breeding North Atlantic population (Count, as at 1994)

Great Skua *Catharacta skua*, 630 pairs representing at least 4.6% of the breeding World population (Count, as at 1997)

Puffin *Fratercula arctica*, 25,400 pairs representing at least 2.8% of the breeding population (Count, as at 1987)

*Assemblage qualification: A seabird assemblage of international importance*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 seabirds

During the breeding season, the area regularly supports 152,000 individual seabirds including: Guillemot *Uria aalge*, Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*, Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*, Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*, Puffin *Fratercula arctica*, Great Skua *Catharacta skua*, Gannet *Morus bassana*.

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Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

# Hoy

## 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Orkney Islands	Classified 07/12/2000

Latitude	Longitude
58 51 30 N	03 19 10 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9002141	9499.7



**Component SSSI/ASSIs** Hoy

Hoy is one of the most southerly of the major islands of the Orkney archipelago in northern Scotland. The Hoy SPA covers the northern and western two-thirds of the island, which is formed of Old Red Sandstone and contains Orkney's highest hills. Most of the island is moorland, drained by numerous streams with diverse vegetation. The site supports an extremely diverse mixture of mire, heath and alpine vegetation, and also Britain's most northerly native woodland. The highly exposed nature of the vegetation results in an arctic-alpine character to the summit of Ward Hill at only 479 m. The low intensity of burning and grazing on Hoy has allowed scrub regeneration to a much greater extent than on most British moorlands. On the west coast, Old Red Sandstone cliffs reach 339 m in height and include a number of notable stacks and crags. These cliffs provide important breeding sites for a number of seabird species, especially gulls and auks, whilst moorland areas support large numbers of breeding birds, in particular Great Skua *Catharacta skua*. Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata* nest on the numerous small lochans found on the moorland. The divers and seabirds feed in the rich waters around Hoy, outside the SPA.

## 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*, 6 pairs representing at least 0.5% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Mid-1990s)

Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*, 56 pairs representing at least 6.0% of the breeding population in Great Britain (1994 National Survey)

This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*During the breeding season;*

Great Skua *Catharacta skua*, 1,900 pairs representing at least 14.0% of the breeding World population (Seabird Census Register)

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*Assemblage qualification: A seabird assemblage of international importance*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 seabirds

During the breeding season, the area regularly supports 120,000 individual seabirds including: Puffin *Fratercula arctica*, Guillemot *Uria aalge*, Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*, Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*, Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*, Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*, Great Skua *Catharacta skua*.

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Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

# Inner Clyde Estuary

## 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Inverclyde Renfrewshire West Dumbartonshire Argyll & Bute	Classified 27/03/2000

Latitude	Longitude
55 56 50 N	04 38 00 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9003061	1826.02



**Component SSSI/ ASSIs** Inner Clyde

The Inner Clyde Estuary is located to the west of Glasgow in central west Scotland. Although the Clyde Estuary is heavily industrialised along much of its length, upstream of Gourock Bay and Helensburgh there are very extensive intertidal sand- and mud-flats. These have an abundant invertebrate fauna, the species composition of which has been changing consequent to recent improvements in the quality of water within the estuary. The Inner Clyde Estuary is important for a range of wintering waterbirds, notably Redshank *Tringa totanus*.

## 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*Over winter;*

Redshank *Tringa totanus*, 1,918 individuals representing at least 1.3% of the wintering Eastern Atlantic – wintering population (winter peak mean)

Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Inner Moray Firth

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Highland	Classified 22/03/1999

Latitude	Longitude
56 50 25 N	04 21 15 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9001624	2339.23



**Component SSSI/ASSIs**

Beaully Firth  
Longman & Castle Stuart Bays  
Munlochy Bay  
Whiteness Head

The Inner Moray Firth is located to the north of Inverness in Scotland and is one of the major arms of the Moray Firth. It comprises the Beaully Firth and Inverness Firth (including Munlochy Bay) which together form the easternmost estuarine component of the Moray Basin ecosystem. The site contains extensive intertidal flats and smaller areas of saltmarsh. The rich invertebrate fauna of the intertidal flats, with beds of eelgrass *Zostera* spp., Glasswort *Salicornia* spp., and *Enteromorpha* algae, all provide important food sources for large numbers of wintering and migrating waterbirds (geese, ducks and waders). With adjacent estuarine areas elsewhere in the Moray Firth, this site is the most northerly major wintering area for wildfowl and waders in Europe. The Firth is also of importance as a feeding area for locally breeding Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* as well as for breeding terns.

The Inner Moray Firth SPA forms an integral ecological component of Moray Basin Firths and Bays.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*, 310 pairs representing at least 2.5% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Seabird Census Register)

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*, 4 pairs representing at least 4.0% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Early 1990s)

*Over winter;*

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*, 1,155 individuals representing at least 2.2% of the wintering population in Great Britain (winter peak mean)

This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*Over winter;*

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*, 1,731 individuals representing at least 1.7% of the wintering Iceland/UK/Ireland population (winter peak mean)

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*, 1,731 individuals representing at least 1.4% of the wintering Northwestern/Central Europe population (winter peak mean)

Redshank *Tringa totanus*, 1,811 individuals representing at least 1.2% of the wintering Eastern Atlantic – wintering population (winter peak mean)

Scaup *Aythya marila*, 97 individuals representing <0.1% of the wintering Northern/Western Europe population (Counts 1991–96)

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*Assemblage qualification: A wetland of international importance.*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 waterfowl

Over winter, the area regularly supports 33,148 individual waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6) including: Scaup *Aythya marila*, Curlew *Numenius arquata*, Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*, Goosander *Mergus merganser*, Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*, Teal *Anas crecca*, Wigeon *Anas penelope*, Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*, Redshank *Tringa totanus*, Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*, Greylag Goose *Anser anser*, Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*.

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Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Inverpolly, Loch Urigill and nearby Lochs

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Highland	Classified 31/05/2000

Latitude	Longitude
58 04 30 N	05 11 00 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9001511	1986.3



Component SSSI/ ASSIs	Cam Loch Inverpolly Loch Awe and Loch Alsh Loch Urigill
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The Inverpolly, Loch Urigill and Nearby Lochs SPA is located in Sutherland and Wester Ross in the Highlands of north-west Scotland. The site includes several large lochans and many smaller lochans, most of which are oligotrophic and contain a submerged flora and restricted fauna typical of nutrient-poor conditions. The catchments around these waterbodies contain a wide range of habitats characteristic of the north-west Scottish Highlands, including upland heath, upland mire, upland broad-leaved woodland, lochans, rivers and streams. The lochs form part of the core breeding range of Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica* in the UK.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*, 9 pairs representing at least 5.6% of the breeding population in Great Britain (1986–1996)

## Kilpheder to Smerclate, South Uist

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Comhairle Nan Eilean/Western Isles	Classified 29/03/1999

Latitude	Longitude
57 02 40 N	07 23 24 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9001083	380.63



**Component SSSI/** Non-SSSI (Corncrake)  
**ASSIs**

The Kilpheder to Smerclate SPA is located in the south-west of the island of South Uist in the Outer Hebrides off the north-west coast of Scotland. The Smerclate section comprises cultivated machair and croftland, together with a small loch and an area of marsh. The Kilpheder section extends southwards to Garrynamonie and encompasses cultivated machair, wet machair, large marsh areas with reedbeds and *Iris* beds, and several small lochs. This combination of cultivation, including hayfields with damp grassland and marsh, provides habitat that supports a breeding population of Corncrake *Crex crex* of European importance.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Corncrake *Crex crex*, 20 individuals representing at least 4.2% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year mean 1993–1997)

## Kintyre Goose Roosts

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Argyll and Bute	Classified 28/10/1998

Latitude	Longitude
55 31 00 N	05 37 00 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9003071	412.37



Component SSSI/ ASSIs	Kintyre Goose Lochs Rhunahaorine Point Tangy Loch
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The Kintyre Goose Roosts SPA is located on the Kintyre peninsula in south-west Scotland. The site comprises five hill lochs (Loch Garasdale, Loch an Fhraoich, Loch Lussa, Tangy Loch and Black Loch (north)) together with an area of grassland and heath at Rhunahaorine Point. The site supports an important population of Greenland White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons flavirostris*. The geese roost on the site at night and fly to feed on nearby agricultural land outside the SPA during the day.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

#### *Over winter;*

Greenland White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons flavirostris*, 2,323 individuals representing at least 16.6% of the wintering population in Great Britain (winter peak mean)

Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

# Kinveachy Forest

## 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Highland	Classified 02/02/2000

Latitude	Longitude
57 14 15 N	03 54 00 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9002581	2849.36



**Component SSSI/** Kinveachy Forest  
**ASSIs**

Kinveachy Forest is located within the Spey Valley of the central Scottish Highlands. It is an important area of Caledonian pine forest and moorland, lying south-west of Carrbridge on either side of the River Dulnain. The structure of the woodland is variable, with dense stands of mature woodland separated by areas of open moorland with scattered trees. The site is important for a number of specialist birds of native pinewoods, including Scottish Crossbill *Loxia scotica* (Britain's only endemic bird species) and Capercaillie *Tetrao urogalls*.

## 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Capercaillie *Tetrao urogallus*, 40 individuals representing at least 1.8% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Mid-1990s)

Scottish Crossbill *Loxia scotica*, 10 pairs representing at least 3.3% of the breeding population in Great Britain (1996)

## Knapdale Lochs

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Argyll and Bute	not yet available

Latitude	Longitude
56 03 08 N	05 32 00 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9003301	to be confirmed upon site classification



**Component SSSI/** To be confirmed on classification  
**ASSIs**

Knapdale Lochs comprise a group of four small oligotrophic and mesotrophic lochs in the Knapdale area of Argyll and Bute in south-west Scotland. These are Dubh Loch, Loch Clachaig, Loch Fuar-Bheinne and Loch nan Torran. The lochs support a typical emergent and aquatic flora. The site holds the most southerly regular breeding population of Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica* in Britain and is of high productivity and European importance.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*, 4 pairs representing at least 2.5% of the breeding population in Great Britain (RSPB count)

# Ladder Hills

## 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Aberdeenshire Moray	not yet available

Latitude	Longitude
57 12 12 N	03 15 00 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9002951	to be confirmed upon site classification



**Component SSSI/** To be confirmed on classification  
**ASSIs**

The Ladder Hills comprise a large block of upland between Corgarff and Tomintoul in inland north-east Scotland. The site supports extensive areas of dry heath, summit heath and blanket bog. The Ladder Hills are important for their assemblages of breeding birds typical of upland moorland areas. The site is of European importance for its breeding population of Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*.

## 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*, 9 pairs representing at least 1.8% of the breeding population in Great Britain (1998 National Survey)

## Laggan, Islay

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Argyll and Bute	Classified 14/07/1988

Latitude	Longitude
55 43 16 N	06 18 24 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9003053	1230.02



**Component SSSI/** Laggan Peninsula  
**ASSIs**

Laggan is located on the Hebridean island of Islay on the west coast of Scotland. The Laggan Peninsula is situated on the eastern shore of Loch Indaal, a sea loch, and comprises the rocky headland of Laggan Point and the land backing Laggan Point and Laggan Bay. The bay is an 11-kilometre long sandy sweep open to the Atlantic. This is backed by a rare and uninterrupted habitat transition from sand dunes and intertidal rocky shore habitats through acidic dune grassland, coastal heath and ultimately to blanket bog. The blanket bog is used as a roost by wintering Greenland White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons flavirostris*. Intensively managed farmland on the site is an important feeding area for wintering Greenland Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*. Goose using this site as a feeding area also use roosts elsewhere (including Bridgend Flats SPA for Greenland Barnacle Goose and Eilean na Muice Duibhe SPA for Greenland White-fronted Goose).

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*Over winter;*

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*, 1,800 individuals representing at least 6.7% of the wintering population in Great Britain (Count as at mid 1990s)

Greenland White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons flavirostris*, 300 individuals representing at least 2.1% of the wintering population in Great Britain (Count as at mid 1990s)

Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

# Lairg and Strathbrora Lochs

## 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Highland	Classified 13/10/2000

Latitude	Longitude
58 04 45 N	04 24 40 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9001611	286.3



**Component SSSI/ASSIs**      Lairg & Strathbrora Lochs

Lairg and Strathbrora Lochs SPA is located in Sutherland in northern Scotland. The site comprises a group of eight lochs (from west to east): Loch Beannach (Lairg), Loch Dola, Loch Tigh na Creige, Loch Craggie, Loch Beannach (Dalnessie), Loch na Gaimeimh, Loch Beannach (Dalreavoch) and Loch Bad na h-Earba. They are mainly oligotrophic on predominantly coarse, slightly acidic substrates. The flora is generally typical of such types with a restricted range of plant species, but often including patches of emergent vegetation dominated by sedges *Carex* spp. near the loch shores. Loch Dola is a mesotrophic loch with a predominantly gravel substrate and a richer aquatic flora. It has an extensive area of low-lying ground with impeded drainage adjoining to the south. This has a mixture of willow *Salix* spp. carr and fen vegetation which is botanically diverse. The lochs lie within two clusters. Lochs Beannach (Lairg), Tigh na Creige, Craggie and Dola are situated to the north-east of Lairg and are surrounded, in whole or in part, by commercial forestry, much of which was planted in the 1980s. The remaining lochs lie in a rolling terrain of peatland and wet heath to the north of Strathbrora at altitudes of up to 310 m. The site supports a breeding population of European importance of the Annex I species Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*. Monitoring between 1986–1998 has shown that the productivity of divers breeding within the site is higher than the national average. The combination of high productivity and large population size makes this site extremely important for the maintenance of the British Black-throated Diver population.

## 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*, 6 pairs representing at least 3.8% of the breeding population in Great Britain (1986–1996)

## Langholm – Newcastleton Hills

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Scottish Borders Dumfries and Galloway	not yet available

Latitude	Longitude
55 12 53 N	02 53 14 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9003271	to be confirmed upon site classification



**Component SSSI/ ASSIs** To be confirmed on classification

Langholm – Newcastleton Hills SPA is located in the Southern Uplands of south-west Scotland. It comprises a large area of upland moorland between the towns of Langholm and Newcastleton. The terrain varies from gently undulating hills to steep, smooth-sided hills deeply dissected by valleys. The main ridge of hills forming the eastern half of the site rises to 568 m at Roan Fell. The Tarras Water is the main riparian feature and has its source on the western slope of Roan Fell and flows south, bisecting the site. The hills rising to the west of Tarras Water are dominated by Arkleton Hill, at 521 m, and several have cliffs. The vegetation of the site is dominated by extensive blanket mire, heather moorland and damp heath, and species-poor acidic grasslands, with frequent small areas of broad-leaved woodland associated with streams. Sheep farming and moorland management for Red Grouse *Lagopus lagopus scoticus* are the two main current land uses with the site. The site regularly supports a population of European importance of the Annex I species Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*. Hen Harriers from the breeding population are also present on the Langholm – Newcastleton Hills in winter. A diverse range of other upland birds occurs on the moorlands, although not at levels of European importance.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*, 17 pairs representing at least 3.4% of the breeding population in Great Britain (1998 national survey)

## Lewis Peatlands

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Comhairle Nan Eilean/Western Isles	Classified 07/12/2000

Latitude	Longitude
58 15 00 N	06 35 00 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9001571	58984.23



Component SSSI/ ASSIs	Non-SSSI
	Achmore Bog
	Loch Laxavat Ard & Loch Laxavat Iorach
	Loch Nan Eilean Valley Bog
	Loch Scarrasdale Valley Bog

The Lewis Peatlands are located on the island of Lewis, the northernmost of the main islands of the Outer Hebrides off the north-west coast of Scotland. They comprise an extensive area of deep blanket bog, interspersed with bog pool complexes and freshwater lochs, covering the main part of Lewis. Grazed, poor-quality grassland also occurs, with Heather *Calluna vulgaris* dominant on the coast. In the south, the continuous blanket bog becomes increasingly fragmented by rocky outcrops and larger lochs. Overall, the continuous and largely unfragmented extent of the peatland is a striking feature of the area, similar to the peatlands of Caithness and Sutherland that were extensively damaged by coniferous afforestation in the 1980s. The peatlands are of importance for a range of characteristic peatland breeding birds, especially waders, divers and raptors.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*, 11 pairs representing at least 6.9% of the breeding population in Great Britain (1994 National survey)

Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*, 6 pairs representing at least 1.5% of the breeding population in Great Britain (1992 National survey)

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, 1,978 pairs representing at least 8.8% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count, as at mid-1990s)

Merlin *Falco columbarius*, 20 pairs representing at least 1.5% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count, as at mid-1990s)

Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*, 60 pairs representing at least 6.4% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count, as at mid-1990s)

This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*During the breeding season;*

Dunlin *Calidris alpina schinzii*, 3,650 pairs representing at least 33.2% of the breeding Baltic/UK/Ireland population (Count, as at mid 1990s)

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*, 152 pairs representing at least 0.3% of the breeding Europe/Western Africa population (Count, as at 1998)

# Loch Ashie

## 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Highland	Classified 11/08/1997

Latitude	Longitude
57 22 44 N	04 17 00 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9001554	162.29



**Component SSSI/ ASSIs**      Loch Ashie

Loch Ashie is a large, open, mesotrophic loch located south-east of the Great Glen in the Scottish Highlands. Much of the shoreline is stony and exposed, with only small patches of emergent vegetation. Where the shore is more sheltered, small beds of Bottle Sedge *Carex rostrata* have developed. The loch is the most important site in Britain for Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus* gathering during the pre- and post-breeding periods. In addition, the loch supports a population of breeding Slavonian Grebe of European importance.

## 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*, 1 pairs representing at least 1.4% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year mean, 1991–1995)

*On passage;*

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*, 44 pairs representing at least 11.0% of the population in Great Britain (Count as at 1993)

## Loch Eye

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Highland	Classified 01/10/1986

Latitude	Longitude
57 47 30 N	03 58 00 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9001621	205.14



**Component SSSI/** Loch Eye  
**ASSIs**

Loch Eye is located between the Cromarty and Dornoch Firths in the Highland region of Scotland. It is a relatively large, shallow, nutrient-rich inland water body, and is the best example of a eutrophic lowland loch north of the Highland boundary fault. The loch and surrounding area supports a diverse range of plant communities. In winter, the loch is an important roosting site for internationally important numbers of waterbirds, especially Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus* and Icelandic Greylag Goose *Anser anser*. The waterbirds using Loch Eye move on a regular basis between the loch and the nearby Dornoch and Cromarty Firths where there are abundant feeding opportunities, although the geese feed in surrounding areas of agricultural land outside the SPA. The loch is thus an integral component of the wider Moray Basin ecosystem.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*Over winter;*

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*, 213 individuals representing at least 3.9% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*Over winter;*

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*, 11,321 individuals representing at least 11.3% of the wintering Iceland/UK/Ireland population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

# Loch Flemington

## 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Highland	Classified 14/03/1997

Latitude	Longitude
57 32 32 N	03 59 15 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9001691	21



**Component SSSI/** Kildrummie Kames  
**ASSIs**

Loch Flemington is located 8 km south-west of Nairn in the Highland region of Scotland. It is a small (14 ha), shallow, eutrophic loch formed in a kettlehole situated among a suite of fluvioglacial landforms produced in the last glaciation. The loch has a limited exchange of water with no obvious outlet, and supports a largely undisturbed aquatic plant community associated with eutrophic conditions, including diverse submerged and emergent vegetation and sedge fen. The loch supports an important and highly productive breeding population of Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*.

## 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*, 5 pairs representing at least 7.1% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year mean, 1991–1995)

## Loch Ken and River Dee Marshes

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Dumfries and Galloway	Classified 31/08/1992

Latitude	Longitude
54 59 28 N	04 01 00 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9003111	769.11



**Component SSSI/ASSIs** Kenmure Holms  
River Dee (Parton to Crossmichael)  
Threave & Carlingwark Loch

Loch Ken and River Dee Marshes are located in south-west Scotland. The site takes the form of a long linear loch and river system that is the southernmost of its type in Scotland. Loch Ken was dammed in the 1930s and the raising of water levels resulted in the reformation of marshes along its banks. It contains areas of swamp (reed and sedge beds), adjoining fen, wet grassland and carr woodland. The site supports internationally important roosting numbers of Greenland White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons flavirostris* and Icelandic Greylag Goose *Anser anser*. Both species also feed on agricultural areas outside the SPA.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*Over winter;*

Greenland White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons flavirostris*, 350 individuals representing at least 2.5% of the wintering population in Great Britain (Count, as at late 1990s)

This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*Over winter;*

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*, 1,000 individuals representing up to 1.0% of the wintering Iceland/UK/Ireland population (winter peak means)

Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Loch Knockie and Nearby Lochs

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Highland	Classified 11/08/1997

Latitude	Longitude
57 05 45 N	04 35 00 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9001552	395.92

**Component SSSI/ASSIs**      Glendoe Lochans  
Knockie Lochs



The Loch Knockie and Nearby Lochs SPA is located in the north-central Scottish Highlands. It comprises a group of mesotrophic lochans at the south-east end of the Great Glen in the Highland region. The lochans support an undisturbed aquatic plant community including extensive sedge beds. The catchment surrounding the SPA comprises a range of upland habitats including upland heath and mire, mixed woodlands and agricultural land. The lochs support an important and highly productive breeding population of Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*, 5 pairs representing up to 7.1% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year mean, 1991–1995)

## Loch Leven

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Perth and Kinross	Classified 27/03/2000

Latitude	Longitude
56 11 48 N	03 22 30 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9004111	1611.81



**Component SSSI/ASSIs** Loch Leven

Loch Leven lies midway between the Forth and Tay estuaries in east-central Scotland. It is about 3x5 km in extent and is the largest naturally eutrophic loch in Britain and Ireland. It is relatively shallow and is surrounded by farmland, with a diverse aquatic flora and shoreline vegetation. The loch contains several islands, the largest of which, St Serf's Island, has an area of about 46 ha. The site supports internationally important wintering populations of waterbirds (swans, geese and ducks).

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*Over winter;*

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*, 101 individuals representing up to 1.8% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*Over winter;*

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*, 18,230 individuals representing up to 8.1% of the wintering Eastern Greenland/Iceland/UK population (winter peak mean)

Shoveler *Anas clypeata*, 520 individuals representing up to 1.3% of the wintering Northwestern/Central Europe population (winter peak mean)

*Assemblage qualification: A wetland of international importance.*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 waterfowl

Over winter, the area regularly supports 32,177 individual waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6) including: Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*, Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*, Pochard *Aythya ferina*, Teal *Anas crecca*, Gadwall *Anas strepera*, Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*, Shoveler *Anas clypeata*, Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*, Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*.

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Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Loch Lomond

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Argyll and Bute Stirling and West Dumbartonshire	Classified 24/03/1997

Latitude	Longitude
56 03 45 N	04 30 30 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9003021	510.49



<b>Component SSSI/ ASSIs</b>	Endrick Mouth & Islands Inchmoan Inchtavannach & Inchconnachan Inchruin
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Loch Lomond is located across the Highland Boundary Fault in Argyll and Stirling, north-east of Dumbarton and the Vale of Leven. The SPA consists of the marshy hinterland around the lower reaches of the River Endrick where it flows into the south-east corner of the loch, and a group of four wooded islands in the loch. The marshy loch shore portion of the site comprises low-lying, regularly flooded wetlands, woodland fringes and rough pasture. The islands are mainly covered by Oak *Quercus robur* woodland with a well-developed shrub layer. The Endrick Mouth supports an internationally important population of Greenland White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons flavirostris*. The islands are used by breeding Capercaillie *Tetrao urogallus*.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Capercaillie *Tetrao urogallus*, 33 individuals representing up to 1.5% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count, as at mid-1990s)

*Over winter;*

Greenland White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons flavirostris*, 237 individuals representing up to 1.7% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Loch Maree

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Highland	Classified 19/09/1994

Latitude	Longitude
57 41 10 N	05 28 15 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9001531	3173.66



**Component SSSI/ASSIs**      Loch Maree

Loch Maree is located in the Ross & Cromarty district of the Highlands in north-west Scotland. It is a large oligotrophic freshwater loch with a mean depth of 38 m and a number of wooded islands. Adjacent catchments support a range of habitats, including freshwater lochs, upland heath, native pinewood, broad-leaved woodland and montane vegetation. It is an important area for breeding water-birds and birds of prey. Loch Maree is the single most important breeding site in Britain for Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*, 10 pairs representing up to 6.3% of the breeding population in Great Britain (11 year mean, 1986–1996)

## Loch of Inch and Torrs Warren

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Dumfries and Galloway	Classified 02/02/1999

Latitude	Longitude
54 50 30 N	04 52 30 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9003121	2111.04



Component SSSI/ ASSIs	Torr's Warren–Luce Sands White Loch–Loch of Inch
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Loch of Inch and Torrs Warren SPA is located on the south coast of Galloway in south-west Scotland. It comprises two separate areas: a large eutrophic freshwater loch (Loch of Inch) and an area of foreshore and sand dunes (Torrs Warren). The latter system contains important examples of dune slacks. Both components of the site support, in winter, important numbers of Greenland White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons flavirostris* and wintering Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

#### *Over winter;*

Greenland White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons flavirostris*, 534 individuals representing up to 3.8% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean, 1991/2–1995/6)

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*, 8 individuals representing up to 1.1% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Loch of Kinnordy

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Angus	Classified 29/03/1994

Latitude	Longitude
56 40 30 N	03 02 40 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9004051	85.09



**Component SSSI/** Loch of Kinnordy  
**ASSIs**

The Loch of Kinnordy is located just west of Kirriemuir in Angus in eastern Scotland. It is a 22 ha eutrophic loch with associated wetland communities, notably basin mire, swamp and fen. The loch was formerly much larger in extent, but a series of drainage attempts, initially to facilitate marl removal, reduced its size. However, it has been increasing in extent in recent years due to the silting of the loch's current outflow stream. The site contains a number of distinct fen communities. Carr woodlands include willow *Salix* spp., Alder *Alnus glutinosa* and Birch *Betula* spp. communities, which are thought to be natural. The loch is a roost for important numbers of Icelandic Greylag Goose *Anser anser* and Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*. The geese feed away from the SPA on surrounding agricultural land during the day.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

#### *Over winter;*

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*, 1,000 individuals representing up to 1.0% of the wintering Iceland/UK/Ireland population (winter peak means)

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*, 4,760 individuals representing up to 2.1% of the wintering Eastern Greenland/Iceland/UK population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Loch of Lintrathen

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Angus	Classified 31/08/1992

Latitude	Longitude
56 40 40 N	03 11 00 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9004061	186.4



**Component SSSI/** Loch of Lintrathen  
**ASSIs**

Loch of Lintrathen is located north of Alyth in western Angus. It is a mid-altitude oligotrophic-mesotrophic loch occupying a glacial basin. It is used as a water supply reservoir. In winter, the site is a roost for internationally important numbers of the Icelandic population of Greylag Goose *Anser anser*. The geese feed away from the SPA on surrounding agricultural land during the day.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*Over winter;*

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*, 3,098 individuals representing up to 3.1% of the wintering Iceland/UK/Ireland population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Loch of Skene

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Aberdeenshire	Classified 01/10/1986

Latitude	Longitude
57 09 30 N	02 21 30 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9002261	120.89



**Component SSSI/ASSIs**      Loch of Skene

Loch of Skene is located about 15 km west of Aberdeen in Scotland. It is a shallow (<2 m deep) eutrophic lowland loch surrounded by fringing reedbeds and birch-willow carr. The loch supports an internationally important roost of Icelandic Greylag Goose *Anser anser*, as well as Icelandic Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*. Both swans and geese feed away from the SPA on surrounding agricultural land during the day.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*Over winter;*

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*, 203 individuals representing up to 3.7% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*Over winter;*

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*, 10,840 individuals representing up to 10.8% of the wintering Iceland/UK/Ireland population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Loch of Strathbeg

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Aberdeenshire	Classified 27/11/1995

Latitude	Longitude
57 37 24 N	01 53 00 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9002211	615.94



**Component SSSI/** Loch of Strathbeg  
**ASSIs**

The Loch of Strathbeg is located in north-eastern Scotland, in Aberdeenshire, inland from Rattray Head. It is a shallow, naturally eutrophic loch with adjoining reedbeds, freshwater marshes, and Alder *Alnus glutinosa* and willow *Salix* spp. carr. The calcareous dunes and dune slacks within the site are relatively undisturbed and contain a rich flora. The loch constitutes the largest dune slack pool in the UK (200 ha) and the largest waterbody in the north-east Scottish lowlands. It is separated from the sea by a 0.5–1 km wide dune system. The SPA provides wintering habitat for a number of important wetland bird species, particularly wildfowl (swans, geese and ducks), and is also an important staging area for migratory wildfowl from Scandinavia and Iceland/Greenland. In summer, coastal parts of the site are an important breeding area for Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*, which feed outside the SPA in adjacent marine areas.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

#### *During the breeding season;*

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*, 530 pairs representing up to 3.8% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year mean, 1993–1997)

#### *Over winter;*

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*, 226 individuals representing up to 1.9% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*, 183 individuals representing up to 3.3% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

#### *Over winter;*

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*, 3,325 individuals representing up to 3.3% of the wintering Iceland/UK/Ireland population (winter peak means)

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*, 39,924 individuals representing up to 17.7% of the wintering Eastern Greenland/Iceland/UK population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

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*Assemblage qualification: A wetland of international importance.*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 waterfowl

Over winter, the area regularly supports 49,452 individual waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6) including: Teal *Anas crecca*, Greylag Goose *Anser anser*, Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*, Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*, Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus* .

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Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Loch Ruthven

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Highland	Classified 16/08/1996

Latitude	Longitude
57 19 54 N	04 16 48 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9001551	209.55



**Component SSSI/** Loch Ruthven  
**ASSIs**

Loch Ruthven is located in the north-central Highlands of Scotland about 20 km south of Inverness. It is a mesotrophic loch with rocky margins and extensive stands of Bottle Sedge *Carex rostrata* around much of the perimeter. A marshy zone is found at the west end of the loch where there is a transition from open water, through swamp and fen, to sedge-rich acidic grassland. This site is largely surrounded by Birch *Betula* spp. woods and the catchment comprises habitats such as upland heath and grassland, upland mire, swamp/fen/carr, wet lowland, grassland, rivers and streams. The loch supports an important breeding population of Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*, 14 pairs representing up to 20.0% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year mean, 1989–1993)

# Loch Shiel

## 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Highland	Classified 02/02/2000

Latitude	Longitude
56 50 00 N	05 30 00 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9001721	2290.94

**Component SSSI/ASSIs** Loch Shiel  
Claish Moss



Loch Shiel is situated in Lochaber, between Moidart and Sunart in the western Highlands. It is a large, deep, sheltered, oligotrophic glacial freshwater loch with a maximum depth of 128 m. Emergent vegetation is virtually absent, but there are submerged macrophyte communities typical of oligotrophic waters, as well as a fairly varied littoral benthic fauna. The site is of importance as a traditional breeding locality for Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*.

## 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*, 4 pairs representing up to 2.5% of the breeding population in Great Britain

## Loch Spynie

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Moray	Classified 31/08/1992

Latitude	Longitude
57 41 00 N	03 16 42 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9002201	93.62



**Component SSSI/ ASSIs** Loch Spynie

Loch Spynie is located in the north-west of Scotland, inland from the coast of the Moray Firth. It is one of the few large and naturally eutrophic waterbodies in northern Scotland. It supports a diverse aquatic flora with extensive reedbeds fringing the open water body and various stages of hydrosere succession including mesotrophic fen, willow *Salix* spp. scrub and swamp Alder *Alnus glutinosa* woodland. The loch is of European importance as a roost for Icelandic Greylag Goose *Anser anser*. The geese feed away from the SPA on surrounding agricultural land during the day.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*Over winter;*

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*, 3,360 individuals representing up to 3.4% of the wintering Iceland/UK/Ireland population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Loch Vaa

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Highland	Classified 19/09/1994

Latitude	Longitude
57 14 20 N	03 48 00 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9002751	44.6



**Component SSSI/** Loch Vaa  
**ASSIs**

Loch Vaa is located on the northern edge of Strath Spey in the central Highlands of Scotland. It is a small, oligotrophic, spring-fed loch of about 500 m diameter. The shoreline comprises a series of small bays and inlets vegetated with fen and bog communities. The loch is surrounded by deciduous woodland, with mainly Birch *Betula pendula* to the south and plantation Scots Pine *Pinus sylvestris* to the north. Small ephemeral pools around the loch are important for insects, notably water beetles and Northern Damselfly *Coenagrion hastulatum*. The loch supports breeding waterbirds and pinewood birds in the surrounding woodland.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*, 5 pairs representing up to 7.1% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year mean, 1991–1995)

## Lochnagar

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Angus Aberdeenshire	Classified 12/06/1998

Latitude	Longitude
56 56 30 N	03 16 00 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9002281	1431.28



Component SSSI/ ASSIs	Non-SSSI (Royal Estates) Fafernie
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Lochnagar is a large montane plateau south-east of Braemar in the eastern part of the Grampian Mountains in central Scotland. Run-off drains into the River Dee to the north and to the River South Esk to the south. The SPA comprises two separate areas and consists of a series of rounded summits and ridges above 900 m altitude. Gravel and boulders cover a large proportion of the site with extensive boulder fields. Snow beds occur until late summer and occasionally persist throughout the year. The site supports a mosaic of sub-montane and montane acidic plant communities characteristic of eastern Scottish high-plateaux. The site is important as a nesting area for a range of montane bird species, but especially for breeding Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*.

Lochnagar SPA is integrally linked to the immediately adjoining plateau complex of Caenlochan SPA.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*, 28 pairs representing up to 3.3% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Two count mean, 1988 & 1996)

## Lochs of Spiggie and Brow

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Shetland Islands	Classified 02/02/1997

Latitude	Longitude
59 56 00 N	01 20 00 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9002651	141.48



**Component SSSI/ASSIs**      Lochs of Spiggie & Brow

The Lochs of Spiggie and Brow are located at the south of the mainland of Shetland in northern Scotland. They are the largest 'machair type' lochs in Shetland. Loch of Spiggie was formed through the natural closure from the sea of a shallow voe (inlet) by a sand bar. Both lochs have slightly brackish conditions, and the sand and mud substrates are dominated by a range of stonewort (Characeae) species and aquatic mosses. The lochs are of importance as both a migratory staging area and wintering site for Icelandic Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*. As well as feeding on the lochs, the swans also feed away from the SPA on surrounding agricultural land.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*Over winter;*

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*, 143 individuals representing up to 2.6% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Marwick Head

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Orkney Islands	Classified 16/12/1994

Latitude	Longitude
59 06 20 N	03 21 00 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9002121	8.7



**Component SSSI/** Marwick Head  
**ASSIs**

Marwick Head lies on the west coast of the island of Mainland in the Orkney archipelago of northern Scotland. The site comprises a 2 km section of high, eroded Old Red Sandstone cliffs rising to 85 m and backed by cliff-top maritime grassland. The site is of importance as a nesting area for large numbers of Guillemot *Uria aalge* and Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*. These species feed outside the SPA in surrounding marine areas.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*During the breeding season;*

Guillemot *Uria aalge*, 24,388 pairs representing up to 1.1% of the breeding East Atlantic population (Count as at 1991)

*Assemblage qualification: A seabird assemblage of international importance*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 seabirds

During the breeding season, the area regularly supports 75,000 individual seabirds including: Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*, Guillemot *Uria aalge*.

Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

# Mingulay and Berneray

## 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Comhairle Nan Eilean/Western Isles	Classified 16/12/1994

Latitude	Longitude
56 48 18 N	07 38 33 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9001121	911.07



**Component SSSI/** Mingulay & Berneray  
**ASSIs**

Mingulay and Berneray are adjacent islands that lie at the southern end of the Outer Hebrides off the north-west coast of Scotland. Mingulay, the more northerly, is larger, rising to 275 m with sheer cliffs of up to 210 m. Berneray rises to about 190 m. There are a number of adjacent stacks. The islands are largely covered by maritime grassland, with some machair and heath. They are an important breeding site for a diverse assemblage of seabirds, comprising especially auks and gulls. These seabirds feed in the surrounding waters of the south Minch, outside the SPA.

## 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*During the breeding season;*

Razorbill *Alca torda*, 11,323 pairs representing at least 2.0% of the breeding population (Count as at 1985)

*Assemblage qualification: A seabird assemblage of international importance*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 seabirds

During the breeding season, the area regularly supports 110,000 individual seabirds including: Puffin *Fratercula arctica*, Guillemot *Uria aalge*, Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*, Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*, Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*, Razorbill *Alca torda*.

Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Mointeach Scadabhaigh

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Comhairle Nan Eilean/Western Isles	Classified 02/02/1999

Latitude	Longitude
57 36 00 N	07 17 00 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9001501	4148.44



**Component SSSI/ASSIs** Mointeach Scadabhaigh

Mointeach Scadabhaigh is located on the island of North Uist in the Outer Hebrides off the north-west coast of Scotland. It is a large area of peatland, lochans and lochs centred on Loch Scadavay, the largest freshwater body in North Uist. Both Loch Scadavay and the neighbouring Loch nan Eun have intricate shorelines and many islands. Their nutrient-poor waters support vegetation typical of the oligotrophic conditions and the islands support Heather *Calluna vulgaris* and scrub. Surrounding blanket bog contains many dystrophic lochans and smaller oligotrophic lochs. The peatland itself consists of two large mires with smaller valley-side and spur bogs scattered through the site, while the vegetation shows a strong Atlantic influence. The site supports a notable assemblage of breeding birds typical of bogs and moorlands but is especially important for productive breeding populations of both Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica* and Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata* – the latter being one of the highest-density populations in the UK. Red-throated Divers feed away from the SPA in surrounding marine areas.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*, 3 pairs representing at least 1.9% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count, as at 1993)

Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*, 48 pairs representing at least 5.1% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count, as at 1994)

# Monach Isles

## 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Comhairle Nan Eilean/Western Isles	Classified 19/09/1994

Latitude	Longitude
57 31 30 N	07 36 30 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9001071	595.74



**Component SSSI/ASSIs** Monach Isles (NNR)

The Monach Isles lie about 10 km off the west coast of North Uist in the Outer Hebrides off the north-west coast of Scotland. They are a group of five low-lying islands consisting of both sandy and rocky shorelines, extensive machair as well as dunes, maritime grassland, fens, marshes and shallow brackish lochs. The grassland is subject to grazing by both sheep and rabbits. . The islands are of importance as a breeding area in summer for terns (which feed in surrounding inshore areas outside the SPA), whilst in winter the islands are a traditional wintering locality for Greenland Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*.

## 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*, 194 pairs representing at least 1.6% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count, as at 1985)

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*, 26 pairs representing at least 1.1% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count as at 1992)

*Over winter;*

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*, 540 individuals representing at least 2.0% of the wintering population in Great Britain (Three count mean, 1994, 1995 & 1997)

Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Montrose Basin

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Angus	Classified 09/02/1995

Latitude	Longitude
56 42 40 N	02 30 20 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9004031	984.61

**Component SSSI/ASSIs** Dun's Dish  
Montrose Basin



The Montrose Basin is located on the east coast of Scotland in Angus. It is an enclosed tidal basin fed by the River South Esk and contains areas of mud-flat, marsh and agricultural land, and Dun's Dish, a small eutrophic loch. It is a good natural example of an estuary, relatively unaffected by development, with high species diversity in the intertidal zone and supporting a large population of wintering water-birds. The site is important for wintering populations of Iceland/Greenland Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus* and Icelandic Greylag Goose *Anser anser*, along with ducks and waders. The geese feed away from the SPA on surrounding agricultural land during the day.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

#### Over winter;

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*, 1,080 individuals representing at least 1.1% of the wintering Iceland/UK/Ireland population (5 year peak mean, 1987/8–1991/2)  
 Knot *Calidris canutus*, 4,500 individuals representing at least 1.3% of the wintering Northeastern Canada/Greenland/Iceland/Northwestern Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)  
 Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*, 31,622 individuals representing at least 14.1% of the wintering Eastern Greenland/Iceland/UK population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)  
 Redshank *Tringa totanus*, 2,259 individuals representing at least 1.5% of the wintering Eastern Atlantic – wintering population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

#### Assemblage qualification: A wetland of international importance.

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 waterfowl

Over winter, the area regularly supports 54,917 individual waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6) including: Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*, Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*, Eider *Somateria mollissima*, Wigeon *Anas penelope*, Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*, Redshank *Tringa totanus*, Knot *Calidris canutus*, Greylag Goose *Anser anser*, Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*.

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Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Moray and Nairn Coast

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Moray Highland	Classified 02/02/1997

Latitude	Longitude
57 38 54 N	03 43 48 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9001625	2410.25



<b>Component SSSI/ASSIs</b>	Culbin Sands, Culbin Forest & Findhorn Bay Lower River Spey Spey Bay
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The Moray and Nairn Coast SPA is located on the south coast of the Moray Firth in north-east Scotland. The site comprises the intertidal flats, saltmarsh and sand dunes of Findhorn Bay and Culbin Bar, and the alluvial deposits and associated woodland of the Lower River Spey and Spey Bay. It is of outstanding nature conservation and scientific importance for coastal and riverine habitats and supports a range of wetland birds throughout the year. In summer it supports nesting Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*, whilst in winter it supports large numbers of Iceland/Greenland Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*, Icelandic Greylag Goose *Anser anser* and other waterbirds, especially ducks, sea-ducks and waders. The geese feed away from the SPA on surrounding agricultural land during the day. The sea-ducks feed, loaf and roost over inundated intertidal areas within the site, but also away from the SPA in the open waters of the Moray Firth.

Moray and Nairn Coast SPA forms an integral ecological component of the Moray Basin Firths and Bays, of which it is the easternmost unit.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*, 7 pairs representing at least 7.0% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count, as at early 1990s)

*Over winter;*

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*, 1,156 individuals representing at least 2.2% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*Over winter;*

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*, 2,679 individuals representing at least 2.7% of the wintering Iceland/UK/Ireland population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*, 139 individuals representing <0.1% of the wintering Eastern Greenland/Iceland/UK population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)  
Redshank *Tringa totanus*, 1,690 individuals representing at least 1.1% of the wintering Eastern Atlantic – wintering population (WeBS 1989–1993 and additional surveys)

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*Assemblage qualification: A wetland of international importance.*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 waterfowl

Over winter, the area regularly supports 20,250 individual waterfowl including: Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*, Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*, Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*, Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*, Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*, Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*, Long-tailed duck *Clangula hyemalis*, Wigeon *Anas penelope*, Redshank *Tringa totanus*, Greylag Goose *Anser anser*, Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*.

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Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Mousa

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Shetland Islands	Classified 27/11/1995

Latitude	Longitude
60 00 00 N	01 10 20 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9002361	197.98



**Component SSSI/ASSIs** Mousa

Mousa is a small island located off the east coast of the south part of the Shetland mainland in northern Scotland. It is a low grassy island, reaching only 55 m above sea level, and is dominated by acidic grassland. There is also some maritime grassland and heathland on the exposed south-west coast. Mousa has a few freshwater lochs and, in the south-east, tidal pools. The island is of importance as a breeding site for seabirds, notably the largest colony of Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus* in Shetland as well as Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*. The seabirds nesting on Mousa feed outside the SPA in surrounding waters, as well as further away.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*, 767 pairs representing at least 1.7% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count, as at 1994)

Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*, 6,760 pairs representing at least 8.0% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count, as at 1996)

## Muir of Dinnet

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Aberdeenshire	Classified 10/05/1999

Latitude	Longitude
57 05 00 N	02 55 00 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9002791	157.6



**Component SSSI/ASSIs** Muir of Dinnet

The Muir of Dinnet is located in the central Dee Valley about 8 km east of Ballater in the central Highlands of Scotland. It is a large mosaic of heath woodland and mire, with open water in two sizeable lochs, and vegetation succession and transitions developing between the major habitat types. Around the open water areas, a mosaic of vegetation communities has established on soils derived from glacial material overlying granite. At Loch Kinord, there is classic succession from open water to fens comprising Bottle Sedge *Carex rostrata*, Slender Sedge *Carex lasiocarpa* and stands of Bog-myrtle *Myrica gale*. Other habitats include wet heath at Black Moss, which is dominated by Cross-leaved Heath *Erica tetralix*, Purple Moor-grass *Molinia caerulea*, Heather *Calluna vulgaris* and *Sphagnum* moss. Swamps, such as those at Ordie Moss, are dominated by Bottle Sedge or Common Reed *Phragmites australis*. There is also carr woodland of Willow *Salix* sp. and Birch *Betula pendula* around Loch Kinord and Loch Davan, together with other wetland vegetation. The lochs support important numbers of roosting passage and wintering Icelandic Greylag Goose *Anser anser*. These feed in surrounding areas of agricultural land outside the SPA.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*Over winter;*

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*, 29,458 individuals representing at least 29.5% of the wintering Iceland/UK/Ireland population (winter peak mean 93/94–97/98)

*Assemblage qualification: A wetland of international importance.*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 waterfowl

Over winter, the area regularly supports 28,600 individual waterfowl (winter peak mean 93/94–97/98) including: Greylag Goose *Anser anser*.

Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Muirkirk and North Lowther Uplands

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	East Ayrshire South Lanarkshire Dumfries and Galloway	not yet available

Latitude	Longitude
55 30 35 N	04 04 35 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9003261	to be confirmed upon site classification.



**Component SSSI/ASSIs** To be confirmed on classification

Muirkirk and North Lowther Uplands SPA is located in south-west Scotland. It comprises three adjacent upland areas (situated to the north and south of the town of Muirkirk, and the northern Lowther Hills), together with Airds Moss, a low-lying blanket bog situated between the two upland areas of north and south Muirkirk. The predominant habitats include semi-natural areas of blanket bog, acid grassland and heath. There are a range of blanket bog and wet heath types found within the site, influenced by a variety of land management practices and other impacts, including drainage, grazing or heather burning (or a combination of these factors). Stock grazing and moorland management for Red Grouse *Lagopus lagopus scoticus* are the two main current land uses. Large areas of the uplands (totalling about 80% of the area) are managed for grouse shooting, but the type and frequency of moorland management is variable in different areas. This, and patterns of agricultural management, create a diverse mix of upland habitats. Muirkirk and North Lowther Uplands is of special nature conservation importance within Britain and Europe for its outstanding breeding assemblage of upland birds. The site regularly supports populations of European importance of five Annex I species: Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus* (a species also present in winter), Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*, Merlin *Falco columbarius*, Peregrine *Falco peregrinus* and Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, 175 pairs representing at least 0.8% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Mid-1990s)

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*, 30 pairs representing at least 6.0% of the breeding population in Great Britain (1998 national survey)

Merlin *Falco columbarius*, 12 pairs representing at least 0.9% of the breeding population in Great Britain

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*, 9 pairs representing at least 0.8% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Mid-1990s)

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*, 30 pairs representing at least 3.0% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Mid-1990s)

*Over winter;*

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*, 10 individuals representing at least 1.3% of the wintering population in Great Britain (RSPB survey mid 1990s)

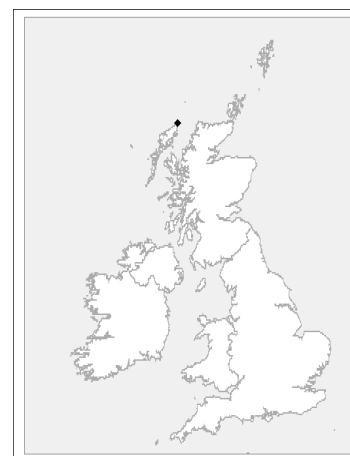
## Ness & Barvas, Lewis

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Comhairle Nan Eilean/Western Isles	Classified 29/03/1999

Latitude	Longitude
58 29 30 N	06 15 30 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9001741	649.2



**Component SSSI/** Non-SSSI (Corncrake)  
**ASSIs**

Ness and Barvas SPA is composed of two separate areas in the extreme north (Ness) and west (Barvas) of the island of Lewis, the most northerly of the Scottish Outer Hebrides. Both areas consist mainly of traditionally managed semi-intensified grassland and marshy areas within crofting land. The Ness part of the site also includes an area of machair common grazing, as well as Loch Stiapavat, a freshwater loch with marshy and botanically rich margins. The site is of European importance as a breeding area for the Annex I species Corncrake *Crex crex*.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Corncrake *Crex crex*, 18 individuals representing at least 3.8% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year mean 1993–1997)

## North Caithness Cliffs

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Highland	Classified 16/08/1996

Latitude	Longitude
58 39 00 N	03 24 30 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9001181	557.73



Component SSSI/ ASSIs	Duncansby Head Dunnet Head Holborn Head Red Point Coast Stroma
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The North Caithness Cliffs SPA is located on the north coast of Caithness in northern Scotland. The site comprises most of the sea-cliff areas between Red Point and Duncansby Head on the north mainland coast, and the western cliffs on the island of Stroma. The cliffs are formed from Old Red Sandstone and are generally between 30–60 m high, rising to 120 m at Dunnet Head. Cliff ledges, stacks and geos provide ideal nesting sites for important populations of seabirds, especially gulls and auks. The seabirds nesting on the North Caithness Cliffs feed outside the SPA in the surrounding waters of the Pentland Firth, as well as further afield. The cliffs also provide important nesting habitat for Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*, 6 pairs representing at least 0.5% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Mid-1990s)

This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*During the breeding season;*

Guillemot *Uria aalge*, 26,994 pairs representing at least 1.2% of the breeding East Atlantic population (Count as at 1987)

*Assemblage qualification: A seabird assemblage of international importance*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 seabirds

During the breeding season, the area regularly supports 110,000 individual seabirds including: Puffin *Fratercula arctica*, Razorbill *Alca torda*, Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*, Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*, Guillemot *Uria aalge*.

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Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## North Colonsay and Western Cliffs

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Argyll and Bute	Classified 24/03/1997

Latitude	Longitude
56 06 28 N	06 10 00 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9003171	973.96



**Component SSSI/ASSIs** North Colonsay  
West Colonsay Seabird Cliffs

The North Colonsay and Western Cliffs SPA is located on the island of Colonsay in the southern Inner Hebrides off the west coast of Scotland. It comprises the northern promontory of Colonsay and a 2 km section of cliffs on the western coast. The hills rise to about 140 m above sea level and the cliffs include some almost sheer sections up to about 100 m in height. The whole area is craggy, and the mainly acidic rocks support dry and wet heath over the northern hills. On the west coast in particular, there is a strong influence of sea spray, giving a herb-rich sward. Sand dunes, including the 60 m high Leac Bhuidhe dune, are found in two areas in the north and are rich in characteristic plant species. The site is of importance for breeding seabirds, including gulls and auks. These feed outside the SPA in surrounding waters as well as further away. Chough *Pyrrhonorax pyrrhonorax* is also a resident species, breeding on cliff areas and foraging widely. They depend on the diverse mix of habitats present within the site and their continued low-intensity agricultural management.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

#### *During the breeding season;*

Chough *Pyrrhonorax pyrrhonorax*, 9 pairs representing at least 2.6% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count, as at 1998)

#### *Over winter;*

Chough *Pyrrhonorax pyrrhonorax*, 18 pairs representing at least 2.6% of the wintering population in Great Britain (Count as at 1998)

#### *Assemblage qualification: A seabird assemblage of international importance*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 seabirds

During the breeding season, the area regularly supports 30,000 individual seabirds including: Guillemot *Uria aalge*, Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*.

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Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

# North Harris Mountains

## 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Comhairle Nan Eilean/Western Isles	Classified 14/03/1997

Latitude	Longitude
58 00 00 N	06 57 30 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9001572	13132.01



**Component SSSI/** North Harris  
**ASSIs**

The North Harris Mountains SPA is located on the island of Harris in the Outer Hebrides off the north-west coast of Scotland. It comprises part of a range of steep rocky hills on the west coast of Harris. These hills are composed of Lewisian gneiss and granite and rise from sea level to a height of 729 m. They have a strongly oceanic character with extensive wet heath and an abundance of Atlantic bryophytes. Indeed, North Harris holds the most extreme oceanic forms of wet heath in the UK and possibly in Europe. Numerous streams, oligotrophic lochs and dystrophic lochans occur. The site is of importance for a range of upland bird species, in particular a high density and highly productive population of Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*. These birds nest, roost, display and hunt throughout the site from the coastal margins to the hilltops, and may also hunt outside the SPA on adjacent agricultural areas.

## 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*, 7 pairs representing at least 1.8% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count, as at 1992)

## North Inverness Lochs

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Highland	Classified 14/03/1997

Latitude	Longitude
57 21 42 N	04 30 10 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9001553	123.21

**Component SSSI/  
ASSIs** Balnagrantoch  
Dubh Lochs



The North Inverness lochs are a small group of mesotrophic lochans located at the north-east end of the Great Glen in the Scottish Highlands. They support an undisturbed aquatic plant community including extensive sedge *Carex* spp. beds. The surrounding catchment of the lochans outside the SPA contain a range of other upland habitats including upland heath and grassland, upland mire, upland Birch *Betula pendula* woodland, swamp, fen and carr, rivers and streams. The lochs support important breeding numbers of Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*, 7 pairs representing at least 10.0% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year mean, 1991–1995)

# North Rona and Sula Sgeir

## 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Comhairle Nan Eilean/Western Isles	not yet available

Latitude	Longitude
59 06 35 N	05 59 27 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9001011	to be confirmed upon site classification



**Component SSSI/ASSIs** To be confirmed on classification

The two small and remote islands of North Rona and Sula Sgeir lie in the North Atlantic about 65 km from the island of Lewis in the Outer Hebrides off the north-west coast of Scotland. Sula Sgeir is about 15 km west of the far larger North Rona. North Rona is well covered by peat or soil and is vegetated with maritime grassland. Sula Sgeir is subject to severe erosive pressure from sea spray and seabirds and has little soil or vegetation. The islands provide strategically placed nesting localities for large numbers of seabirds which feed in the waters off the north coast of Scotland away from the SPA. They hold a diverse assemblage of species including large numbers of petrels, auks, gulls and Gannet *Morus bassana*. It is one of only seven known nesting localities in the EU for Leach's Petrel *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*.

## 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Leach's Storm-petrel *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*, 2,750 pairs representing at least 5.0% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Seabird Census Register 1986–88)

Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*, 1,000 pairs representing at least 1.2% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Seabird Census Register 1986–88)

This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*During the breeding season;*

Gannet *Morus bassana*, 9,000 pairs representing at least 3.4% of the breeding North Atlantic population (Seabird Census Register)

Guillemot *Uria aalge*, 28,944 pairs representing at least 1.3% of the breeding East Atlantic population (Seabird Census Register)

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*Assemblage qualification: A seabird assemblage of international importance*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 seabirds

During the breeding season, the area regularly supports 130,000 individual seabirds including: Puffin *Fratercula arctica*, Razorbill *Alca torda*, Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*, Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*, Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*, Guillemot *Uria aalge*, Gannet *Morus bassana*, Leach's Storm-petrel *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*, Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*.

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Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## North Sutherland Coastal Islands

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Highland	Classified 02/02/1999

Latitude	Longitude
58 33 30 N	04 21 00 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9001211	221.11

**Component SSSI/  
ASSIs** Eilean Hoan  
Eilean nan Ron



The North Sutherland Coastal Islands SPA comprises two islands off the north coast of Sutherland in northern Scotland: Eilean nan Ron off the Kyle of Tongue, and Eilean Hoan at the mouth of Loch Eriboll. These islands have a rocky coastline and are covered by maritime heath and grassland. The more sheltered, central area around the abandoned township on Eilean nan Ron was previously cultivated and is now dominated by rank grassland communities. Eilean Hoan is formed largely of Durness limestone, and accordingly there is a range of limestone plant communities influenced by salt spray and by previous cultivation. Most of the island is covered by a range of grassland communities, although at the north-west end there is a small area of maritime heath, as well as small areas of nutrient-enriched vegetation close to colonies of breeding gulls. The islands support a traditional wintering flock of Greenland Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*. The birds roost and feed on both islands, as well as on other small islands outside the SPA, and on agriculturally improved land on the nearby mainland.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*Over winter;*

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*, 631 individuals representing at least 2.3% of the wintering population in Great Britain (4 year peak mean, 1992/3–1995/6)

Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## North Uist Machair and Islands

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Comhairle Nan Eilean/Western Isles	Classified 29/03/1999

Latitude	Longitude
57 32 00 N	07 22 45 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9001051	4876.35



Component SSSI/ASSIs	Baleshare & Kirkibost Balranald Bog & Loch Nam Feithean Machairs Robach & Newton Tigharry (non-SSSI, corncrake) Berneray Boreray Pabbay Vallay
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North Uist Machair and Islands SPA is located in the Outer Hebrides off the north-west coast of Scotland. It is a coastal site encompassing areas of rocky shore, sandy beaches and dunes, cultivated machair, saltmarsh, calcareous coastal plains and acid grassland. There are also important freshwater wetlands including eutrophic machair lochs, marshes and fens, and wet machair. These areas are important for both large numbers and high densities of breeding waders as well as Corncrake *Crex crex*. The Tigharry section is included specifically for Corncrake. In migration periods and during winter, the site holds important numbers of waders on the rocky and sandy shorelines, together with wintering Greenland Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

#### *During the breeding season;*

Corncrake *Crex crex*, 25 individuals representing at least 5.2% of the breeding population in Great Britain (1993–1997)

#### *Over winter;*

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*, 1,500 individuals representing at least 5.6% of the wintering population in Great Britain

This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

#### *During the breeding season;*

Dunlin *Calidris alpina schinzii*, 260 pairs representing at least 2.4% of the breeding Baltic/UK/Ireland population (1994/5)

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*, 630 pairs representing at least 0.2% of the breeding Europe & Northern/Western Africa population (1993–1997)

Redshank *Tringa totanus*, 470 pairs representing at least 0.8% of the breeding Eastern Atlantic – wintering population (1994/95)

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, 240 pairs representing at least 1.5% of the breeding Europe/Northern Africa – wintering population (3 year mean, 1993–1995)

*Over winter;*

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*, 370 individuals representing at least 0.7% of the wintering Eastern Atlantic – wintering population (1994/95)

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, 590 individuals representing at least 1.2% of the wintering Europe/Northern Africa – wintering population

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*, 670 individuals representing at least 1.0% of the wintering Western Palearctic – wintering population

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Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Noss

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Shetland Islands	Classified 16/08/1996

Latitude	Longitude
60 08 40 N	01 01 00 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9002081	343.82



**Component SSSI/ASSIs** Noss

Noss is located on the east coast of the island of Bressay, to the east of mainland Shetland in northern Scotland. The site comprises high cliffs of Old Red Sandstone that reach 180 m. The steeper eastern part of the island is covered with maritime grassland and *Calluna/Eriophorum* heath, whilst lower land to the west is semi-intensified grassland. The horizontal bedding planes of the sandstone cliffs result in a high density of ledges suitable for nesting seabirds and accordingly the site supports large numbers of auks, gulls and Gannet *Morus bassana*. On moorland areas large numbers of Great Skua *Catharacta skua* breed. The seabirds nesting on Noss feed outside the SPA in the immediately surrounding waters, as well as further away in the North Sea.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*During the breeding season;*

Gannet *Morus bassana*, 7,310 pairs representing at least 2.8% of the breeding North Atlantic population (Count, as at 1994)

Great Skua *Catharacta skua*, 410 pairs representing at least 3.0% of the breeding World population (Count, as at 1997)

Guillemot *Uria aalge*, 30,619 pairs representing at least 1.4% of the breeding East Atlantic population (Count as at 1996)

*Assemblage qualification: A seabird assemblage of international importance*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 seabirds

During the breeding season, the area regularly supports 100,000 individual seabirds including: Puffin *Fratercula arctica*, Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*, Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*, Guillemot *Uria aalge*, Great Skua *Catharacta skua*, Gannet *Morus bassana*.

Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Orkney Mainland Moors

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Orkney Islands	Classified 13/10/2000

Latitude	Longitude
59 05 00 N	03 08 00 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9002311	4444.35



<b>Component SSSI/ASSIs</b>	Orphir & Stenness Hills West Mainland Moorlands Keelylang Hill & Swartabeck Burn Glims Moss & Durkadale
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Orkney Mainland Moors SPA comprises four areas of moorland on the island of Mainland in the Orkney archipelago of northern Scotland. The predominant habitats include extensive areas of blanket bog, acid grassland, wet and dry heath, raised-mire and calcareous valley mire. The presence of extensive moorland provides nesting opportunities for an assemblage of moorland breeding birds, including Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus* and Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*. Sheltered river valleys and dales support Willow *Salix* spp. scrub, tall-herb and flush vegetation, and there are several scattered oligotrophic lochans present on part of the SPA, which provide important breeding areas for Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

#### *During the breeding season;*

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*, 30 pairs representing at least 6.0% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count as at 1998)

Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*, 15 pairs representing at least 1.6% of the breeding population in Great Britain (1994–1996)

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*, 20 pairs representing at least 2.0% of the breeding population in Great Britain (RSPB mid 1990s est)

#### *Over winter;*

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*, 13 individuals representing at least 1.7% of the wintering population in Great Britain (Count mean (1994–98))

## Otterswick and Graveland

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Shetland Islands	not yet available

Latitude	Longitude
60 35 42 N	01 08 07 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9002941	to be confirmed upon site classification.



**Component SSSI/ ASSIs** To be confirmed on classification

Otterswick and Graveland are located on the island of Yell, in Shetland. Otterswick lies to the south of Yell, whilst Graveland is a peninsula on the west coast of the island. The site rises from sea level on Graveland to an altitude of 205 m at Ward of Otterswick. Inland areas are dominated by blanket bog, with some stretches of dry heather moorland. The blanket bog is variable in quality, with considerable areas of eroded peat, especially on the eastern side of Otterswick. A band of maritime grassland extends along the coastal stretch of the Graveland peninsula. The site is of European importance as a breeding area for Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*, 27 pairs representing at least 2.9% of the breeding population in Great Britain (1992–1996)

# Papa Stour

## 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Shetland Islands	Classified 27/03/2000

Latitude	Longitude
60 20 10 N	01 42 00 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9002051	569.03



**Component SSSI/ ASSIs** Papa Stour

Papa Stour lies on the west coast of mainland Shetland in northern Scotland. The SPA comprises the northern and western parts of Papa Stour and consists of rocky hillsides rising to about 90 m, a number of lochs and a few offshore skerries. The main vegetation is a lichen-rich heath that has developed on substrates that formerly consisted of peat and turf. The island is an important breeding site for Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea* and Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*. The terns feed outside the SPA in the waters around the islands.

## 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*, 1,000 pairs representing at least 2.3% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Seabird Census Register)

This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*During the breeding season;*

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, 89 pairs representing at least 0.6% of the breeding Europe/Northern Africa – wintering population

## Papa Westray (North Hill and Holm)

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Orkney Islands	Classified 27/03/1996

Latitude	Longitude
59 22 40 N	02 52 45 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9002111	245.71

**Component SSSI/ASSIs** Holm of Papa Westray  
North Hill



Papa Westray is a small island lying close to Westray in the northern Orkney islands in Scotland. The island rises to 48 m above sea level at North Hill and is surrounded by a rocky coastline backing onto maritime sedge heath. Halophytic communities of plants typify the grassland immediately above the shore, grading inland to maritime sedge heath with a few small pools. The site supports a wide variety of plants, including the nationally scarce Scottish Primrose *Primula scotica*. The Holm is a small, low-lying island of 48 ha off the east coast of Papa Westray dominated by a rocky coastline and maritime grassland. The islands are an important breeding site for both Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea* and Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*. The terns feed outside the SPA in the waters surrounding the islands.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*, 1,950 pairs representing at least 4.4% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count, as at 1997)

This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*During the breeding season;*

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*, 135 pairs representing at least 0.4% of the breeding North Atlantic population (Seabird Census Register)

## Pentland Firth Islands

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Orkney Islands	Classified 01/12/1997

Latitude	Longitude
58 44 30 N	03 03 30 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9001131	170.51



**Component SSSI/ASSIs**      Pentland Firth Islands

The Pentland Firth Islands are located between the Orkney Islands and the mainland coast of north-east Scotland. They are a group of two main islands, Swona and Muckle Skerry, and a group of rocky skerries in the Pentland Firth. The islands contain a variety of habitats, including cliffs, rocky shores, maritime heath, moorland rough grassland marsh and open freshwater. They provide strategic nesting localities for Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea* which feed outside the SPA in the rich surrounding waters of the Pentland Firth.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*, 1,200 pairs representing at least 2.7% of the breeding population in Great Britain (4 year mean 1992–1995)

## Priest Island (Summer Isles)

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Highland	Classified 01/10/1986

Latitude	Longitude
57 57 40 N	05 30 30 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9001261	131.68



**Component SSSI/ASSIs** Priest Island

Priest Island is the outermost and most exposed of the Summer Isles, lying about 6 km off the west coast of Wester Ross. The island rises to about 75 m and supports heath communities, numerous lochs and a small amount of woodland. Enrichment from salt spray and bird guano enables more species-rich maritime heath and cliff communities to exist around the coast. Priest Island supports one of the largest Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus* colonies in the UK, together with small numbers of other breeding seabirds. These species feed outside the SPA in surrounding and more distant marine areas.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*, 2,200 pairs representing at least 2.6% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count, as at 1995)

## Ramna Stacks and Gruney

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Shetland Islands	Classified 15/03/1996

Latitude	Longitude
60 39 10 N	01 18 10 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9002021	11.59



**Component SSSI/ASSIs** Ramna Stacks & Gruney

Ramna Stacks and Gruney lie north of mainland Shetland in the north of Scotland. With the exception of Gruney, where guano-enriched maritime grassland occurs, these rocky islands support little or no vegetation. They are of importance as a site for breeding seabirds, particularly as one of only seven known nesting localities in the EU for Leach's Petrel *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*. The nesting seabirds using the site feed outside the SPA in surrounding and more distant marine areas.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Leach's Storm-petrel *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*, 22 pairs representing at least 0.0% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count, as at 1994)

## Rannoch Lochs

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Argyll and Bute Highland Perth and Kinross	Classified 07/12/2000

Latitude	Longitude
56 40 00 N	04 37 00 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9004021	1170.19



<b>Component SSSI/ASSIs</b>	Black Wood of Rannoch Rannoch Lochs Rannoch Moor
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Rannoch Lochs SPA is located on the periphery of Rannoch Moor in the southern Highlands of Scotland. It comprises a group of oligotrophic freshwater lochs in upland heath and blanket bog at 220–420 m above sea level. The site is of European importance as a traditional breeding locality for Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*, 7 pairs representing at least 4.4% of the breeding population in Great Britain (1986–1996)

## Rinns of Islay

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Argyll and Bute	Classified 27/11/1995

Latitude	Longitude
55 46 55 N	06 21 00 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9003057	9407.46

**Component SSSI/ASSIs**  
 Feur Lochain  
 Glac na Criche  
 Rinns of Islay



The Rinns of Islay SPA is located on the Hebridean island of Islay on the west coast of Scotland. It comprises extensive areas of the western side of the island, being a mosaic of natural and semi-natural habitats including bog, moorland, dune grassland, maritime grassland, marsh and farmland. Much of the natural vegetation is utilised as rough grazing for sheep and cattle and is managed extensively. These habitats are used by an extremely rich assemblage of scarce bird species throughout the year. The site is of particular importance for a number of breeding and wintering birds, including raptors, Greenland White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons flavirostris* and Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*. The Choughs depend on the diverse mix of habitats present and their continued low-intensity agricultural management.

The site also includes the subsumed SPAs of Glac na Criche and Feur Lochain, which were subject to separate classification.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

#### *During the breeding season;*

Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*, 31 pairs representing at least 9.1% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count, as at 1998)

Corncrake *Crex crex*, 2 individuals representing at least 0.4% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year mean, 1993–1997)

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*, 7 pairs representing at least 1.4% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count, as at 1998)

#### *On passage;*

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*, 140 individuals representing at least 2.5% of the population in Great Britain (Count, as at 1988)

#### *Over winter;*

Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*, 62 pairs representing at least 9.0% of the wintering population in Great Britain (Count as at 1998)

Greenland White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons flavirostris*, 1,600 individuals representing at least 11.4% of the wintering population in Great Britain (Count, as at 1993/4)

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This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*During the breeding season;*

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*, 10 pairs representing <0.1% of the breeding Western Siberia/Western & Northern Europe/Northwestern Africa population (Count, as at 1997)

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Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

# River Spey – Insh Marshes

## 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Highland	Classified 02/02/1997

Latitude	Longitude
57 05 23 N	03 59 48 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9002231	1158.87



**Component SSSI/ASSIs** River Spey – Insh Marshes

The Insh Marshes lie either side of the River Spey upstream of Loch Insh in the central Highlands of Scotland. They are over 5 km long and over 1 km wide. Partly due to seasonal flooding, there is a very large area of swamp, fen and carr which together form the largest single unit of poor fen floodplain mire in the UK. It is also one of the most natural systems of its type left in Britain. The SPA lies within the flat valley floor of the River Spey between Newtonmore and Kingussie and includes Loch Insh. It is of importance for a diverse assemblage of waterbirds and raptors in summer (including nesting Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*), as well as for Icelandic Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus* in winter.

## 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

### *During the breeding season;*

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*, 4 pairs representing at least 4.0% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count as at early 1990's)

Spotted Crake *Porzana porzana*, 3 individuals representing at least 6.0% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year mean, 1990–1995)

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*, 2 pairs representing at least 20.0% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year mean, 1990–1995)

### *Over winter;*

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*, 11 individuals representing at least 1.5% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year mean, 1990/1–1994/5)

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*, 190 individuals representing at least 3.5% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

### *During the breeding season;*

Wigeon *Anas penelope*, 37 pairs representing <0.1% of the breeding Western Siberia/Northwestern/Northeastern Europe population (Mid 1990s)

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Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Ronas Hill – North Roe and Tingon

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Shetland Islands	Classified 11/08/1997

Latitude	Longitude
60 33 00 N	01 25 00 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9002041	5470.2



<b>Component SSSI/ASSIs</b>	Ronas Hill – North Roe Tingon Papa Stour
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Ronas Hill – North Roe and Tingon SPA is located in the north mainland of Shetland in northern Scotland. The site comprises two adjacent headlands separated by the large Ronas Voe. Most of the site is composed of active blanket bog with numerous lochans and pools that support a typical peatland avifauna. The flatter parts of Tingon and North Roe have many pools and acidic lochans set within an open landscape of blanket bog and maritime heath. The area holds some of the highest-quality blanket bog in Shetland, which is floristically rich and intact. The site is of importance for breeding Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata* and Merlin *Falco columbarius*.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Merlin *Falco columbarius*, 6 pairs representing at least 0.5% of the breeding population in Great Britain  
Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*, 50 pairs representing at least 5.3% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count, as at 1994)

## Rousay

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Orkney Islands	Classified 02/02/2000

Latitude	Longitude
59 10 50 N	03 06 00 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9002371	633.41



**Component SSSI/ASSIs** Rousay

Rousay is an island off the north-east coast of the island of Mainland in the Orkney archipelago, in northern Scotland. The site is composite and consists of two parts located at the north-west and north-east ends of the island. Here, sea-cliffs grade inland to areas of maritime heath and grassland. The maritime heath contains numerous base-rich flushes characterised by Black Bog-rush *Schoenus nigricans* and various sedges *Carex* spp. and grasses. The maritime heath also supports colonies of the nationally scarce Scottish Primrose *Primula scotica*. The site holds a diverse assemblage of breeding seabirds, including terns, auks, gulls and skuas. The nesting seabirds feed in the waters around Rousay outside the SPA, as well as further away.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*, 1,000 pairs representing at least 2.3% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Seabird Census Register)

*Assemblage qualification: A seabird assemblage of international importance*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 seabirds

During the breeding season, the area regularly supports 30,000 individual seabirds (Three year mean, 1986–1988) including: Guillemot *Uria aalge*, Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*, Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*, Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*, Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*.

Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Rum

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Highland	Classified 31/08/1982

Latitude	Longitude
57 00 00 N	06 20 00 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9001341	10942.38



**Component SSSI/** Rum  
**ASSIs**

Rum is a large island located south-west of Skye in the Lochaber district of the Scottish Highlands. It has a varied topography and geology, with contrasting acid and basic rocks, leading to a variety of habitats. These include montane grassland, dwarf-shrub heath, blanket mire, open waters, shingle and boulder beaches, maritime cliffs, grassland and heath, and limited woodland, sand dunes and saltmarsh. Rum is particularly noted for its huge colony of Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus* – the largest colony of this species in the world – breeding on the slopes of some of the higher hills. It also supports Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*, as well as a number of other breeding seabirds (auks and gulls) on the cliffs. The seabirds feed outside the SPA in nearby waters, as well as more distantly.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*, 4 pairs representing at least 1.0% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count, as at 1992.)

Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*, 11 pairs representing at least 1.2% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year mean, 1992–1996)

This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*During the breeding season;*

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*, 61,000 pairs representing at least 23.0% of the breeding population (Count, as at 1995)

*Assemblage qualification: A seabird assemblage of international importance*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 seabirds

During the breeding season, the area regularly supports 130,000 individual seabirds (Count, as at 1992) including: Guillemot *Uria aalge*, Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*, Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*.

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Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Shiant Isles

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Comhairle Nan Eilean/Western Isles	Classified 31/08/1992

Latitude	Longitude
57 54 00 N	06 22 00 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9001041	212.33



**Component SSSI/ASSIs** Shiant Isles

The Shiant Isles are a small island group lying in the Minch east of the Outer Hebrides off the north-west coast of Scotland. The site comprises three large islands and several small islands and skerries, lying about 6 km east of the island of Lewis. The islands are composed mainly of a basaltic sill and include various types of coastline, including sheer cliffs and boulder screes, both of which provide suitable nesting sites for seabirds. In summer, the Shiant Islands are important for breeding seabirds, especially auks and Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*. In winter, the close-cropped turf of the islands supports a flock of Greenland Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*. The seabirds feed outside the SPA in nearby waters, as well as more distantly elsewhere in the Minch.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*Over winter;*

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*, 172 individuals representing at least 0.6% of the wintering population in Great Britain (Three count mean, 1994, 1995 & 1997)

This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*During the breeding season;*

Puffin *Fratercula arctica*, 76,100 pairs representing at least 8.4% of the breeding population (Count, as at 1970)

Razorbill *Alca torda*, 7,337 pairs representing at least 1.3% of the breeding population (Count as at 1986)

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*, 1,780 pairs representing at least 1.4% of the breeding Northern Europe population (Count, as at 1986)

*Assemblage qualification: A seabird assemblage of international importance*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 seabirds

During the breeding season, the area regularly supports 200,000 individual seabirds including: Guillemot *Uria aalge*, Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*, Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*, Puffin *Fratercula arctica*, Razorbill *Alca torda*, Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*.

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Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Sleibhtean agus Cladach Thiriodh (Tiree Wetlands and Coast)

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Argyll and Bute	not yet available

Latitude	Longitude
56 30 05 N	06 53 00 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9003032	to be confirmed upon site classification



**Component SSSI/** To be confirmed on classification  
**ASSIs**

The island of Tiree lies in the Inner Hebrides of western Scotland, 17 km west of Mull in Argyll and Bute. Sleibhtean agus Cladach Thiriodh (Tiree Wetlands and Coast) SPA consists of several areas of wetland, including habitats such as machair, heath and freshwater lochs, and extensive sections of the coastline, taking in the islet of Soa. The wetland areas support roost sites of significant numbers of wintering Greenland Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*, Greenland White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons flavirostris*, as well as breeding Dunlin *Calidris alpina schinzii* and Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* in numbers of European importance. Also present in the wetland areas are exceptionally high densities of breeding Redshank *Tringa totanus* and Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*. The coastal sections support important wintering populations of Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* and the islet of Soa supports a large Barnacle Goose roost.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

#### Over winter;

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*, 959 individuals representing at least 3.6% of the wintering population in Great Britain (winter peak mean)

Greenland White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons flavirostris*, 783 individuals representing at least 5.6% of the wintering population in Great Britain (winter peak mean)

This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

#### During the breeding season;

Dunlin *Calidris alpina schinzii*, 125 pairs representing at least 1.1% of the breeding Baltic/UK/Ireland population (1994/5)

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*, 160 pairs representing <0.1% of the breeding Europe & Northern/Western Africa population (1994/5)

Redshank *Tringa totanus*, 140 pairs representing at least 0.2% of the breeding Eastern Atlantic – wintering population (1994/95)

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, 160 pairs representing at least 1.0% of the breeding Europe/  
Northern Africa – wintering population (1998)

*Over winter;*

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*, 700 individuals representing at least 1.0% of the wintering Western  
Palearctic – wintering population (mean 1995, 1998, & 1999 special surveys)

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Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage  
or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the  
year.

## South Tayside Goose Roosts

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Perth and Kinross	Classified 22/04/1993

Latitude	Longitude
56 15 54 N	03 50 00 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9004401	331.01



<b>Component SSSI/ASSIs</b>	Carsebreck & Rhynd Lochs Drummond Lochs Dupplin Lakes
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The South Tayside Goose Roosts SPA is located in Perthshire in eastern Scotland. The site is a composite SPA which comprises seven lochs (including Carsebreck and Rhynd Lochs, Drummond Lochs, Dupplin Loch and Pitcarnie Loch), a number of smaller waterbodies and other wetland habitats. Some of the lochs are eutrophic and support rich emergent vegetation at the loch edges. Individually and collectively, these areas are important roosts for both Greylag Goose *Anser anser* and Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*. The geese feed in surrounding areas of agricultural land outside the SPA.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

#### Over winter;

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*, 3,667 individuals representing at least 3.7% of the wintering Iceland/UK/Ireland population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*, 43,300 individuals representing at least 19.2% of the wintering Eastern Greenland/Iceland/UK population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

#### Assemblage qualification: A wetland of international importance.

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 waterfowl

Over winter, the area regularly supports 52,403 individual waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6) including: Greylag Goose *Anser anser*, Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*.

Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## South Uist Machair and Lochs

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Comhairle Nan Eilean/Western Isles	Classified 01/12/1997

Latitude	Longitude
57 18 50 N	07 20 00 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9001082	3352.28



Component SSSI/ASSIs	Loch Hallan Bornish & Ormiclate Machairs Loch Bee Machair Loch Druidibeg Howmore Estuary Loch Bee
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South Uist Machair and Lochs is a complex site along the west coast of South Uist in the Outer Hebrides off the north-west coast of Scotland. This area is of outstanding importance for its transition of habitats from acidic moorland to the calcareous coastal plain, and for the transition from freshwater to saltwater habitats. This complex includes outstanding examples of relict woodland, moorland and blanket bog, large oligotrophic lochs, acidic blacklands, wet and dry machair with eutrophic machair lochs, freshwater marsh, saltmarsh, coastal dunes and sandy and rocky shores. These areas are of outstanding importance for their populations of breeding waterbirds, especially Corncrake *Crex crex*, terns and waders. The densities of breeding waders are some of the highest in the world. The site is also important in winter in supporting large numbers of Sanderling *Calidris alba* on the coast.

The site also includes the subsumed SPA of Loch Druidibeg, Loch a' Machair and Loch Stilligary, a site that was subject to separate classification.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

#### *During the breeding season;*

Corncrake *Crex crex*, 15 individuals representing at least 3.1% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year mean, 1993–1997)

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*, 31 pairs representing up to 1.3% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Four year mean, 1986–1990)

This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

#### *During the breeding season;*

Dunlin *Calidris alpina schinzii*, 357 pairs representing up to 3.2% of the breeding Baltic/UK/Ireland population (Count, as at 1995)

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*, 577 pairs representing up to 0.2% of the breeding Europe & Northern/Western Africa population (1994/5)

Redshank *Tringa totanus*, 350 pairs representing up to 0.6% of the breeding Eastern Atlantic – wintering population (1994/95)

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, 393 pairs representing up to 2.5% of the breeding Europe/Northern Africa – wintering population (Count, as at 1995)

*Over winter;*

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, 490 individuals representing up to 1.0% of the wintering Europe/Northern Africa – wintering population (Two year peak mean, 1993/4–1994/5)

Sanderling *Calidris alba*, 700 individuals representing up to 0.7% of the wintering Eastern Atlantic/Western & Southern Africa – wintering population (Count as at 1994/5)

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Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## St Abb's Head to Fast Castle

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Scottish Borders	Classified 11/08/1997

Latitude	Longitude
55 55 00 N	02 10 00 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9004271	247.85



**Component SSSI/** St Abb's Head to Fast Castle Head  
**ASSIs**

St Abb's Head to Fast Castle lies on the coast of Berwickshire in south-east Scotland. It is a 10 km stretch of cliffs comprised of Old Red Sandstone and Silurian rocks, in places reaching over 150 m in height. The cliffs are backed by areas of grassland, open water, flushes and splash zone communities. The site is important for large numbers of breeding seabirds, especially auks and gulls, which feed outside the SPA in surrounding marine areas, as well as further away in the North Sea.

### 2. Qualifying species

*Assemblage qualification: A seabird assemblage of international importance*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 seabirds

During the breeding season, the area regularly supports 79,560 individual seabirds (Count, as at 1987) including: Razorbill *Alca torda*, Guillemot *Uria aalge*, Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*, Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*, Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*.

Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

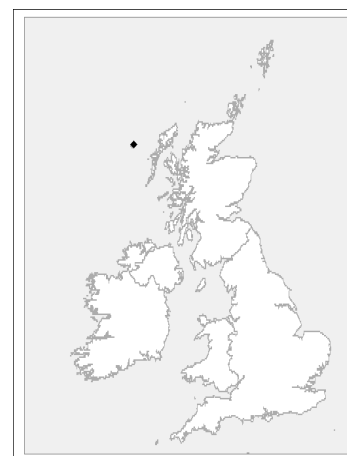
# St Kilda

## 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Comhairle Nan Eilean/Western Isles	Classified 31/08/1992

Latitude	Longitude
57 49 00 N	08 35 00 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9001031	865.51



**Component SSSI/ASSIs** St Kilda

St Kilda is a group of remote Scottish islands lying in the North Atlantic about 70 km west of North Uist in the Outer Hebrides. The St Kilda group consists of the largest island of Hirta, the nearby Dun and Soay, and Boreray with its flanking pinnacles of Stac Lee and Stac an Armin together with some smaller rocky islets. The islands are steep, with precipitous cliffs reaching 430 m on Hirta and 380 m on Soay and Boreray. The vegetation is strongly influenced by sea spray and the presence of seabirds and livestock. Inland on Hirta, species-poor acidic grassland and sub-maritime heaths occupy extensive areas. The islands provide a strategic nesting locality for seabirds that feed in the rich waters to the west of Scotland. The total population of seabirds exceeds 600,000 pairs, making this one of the largest concentrations in the North Atlantic and the largest in the UK. Notable among the many breeding species are auks, petrels and shearwaters, gulls and large proportions of the national and international populations of Gannet *Morus bassana* and Puffin *Fratercula arctica*. These species feed outside the SPA, not only in the waters close to the islands, but also further away in the North Atlantic. It is one of only seven known nesting localities in the EU for Leach's Petrel *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*.

## 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Leach's Storm-petrel *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*, 5,000 pairs representing at least 9.1% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count as at 1987)

Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*, 850 pairs representing at least 1.0% of the breeding population in Great Britain

This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*During the breeding season;*

Gannet *Morus bassana*, 60,400 pairs representing at least 23.0% of the breeding North Atlantic population (Count, as at 1994)

Great Skua *Catharacta skua*, 270 pairs representing at least 2.0% of the breeding World population (1997)

Puffin *Fratercula arctica*, 155,000 pairs representing at least 17.2% of the breeding population (Count, as at 1989)

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*Assemblage qualification: A seabird assemblage of international importance*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 seabirds

During the breeding season, the area regularly supports 600,000 individual seabirds including: Razorbill *Alca torda*, Guillemot *Uria aalge*, Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*, Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*, Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*, Puffin *Fratercula arctica*, Great Skua *Catharacta skua*, Gannet *Morus bassana*, Leach's Storm-petrel *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*, Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*.

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Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

# Sule Skerry and Sule Stack

## 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Orkney Islands	Classified 29/03/1994

Latitude	Longitude
59 05 05 N	04 24 15 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9002181	18.9

**Component SSSI/ASSIs** Sule Skerry  
Sule Stack



The two small and remote islands of Sule Skerry and Sule Stack lie in the North Atlantic, west of Orkney. Sule Skerry is about 60 km from Orkney, while Sule Stack is another 8 km to the south-west. Sule Skerry is the larger of the two islands, covering about 16 ha, and is low-lying and covered by peaty soil with rocky outcrops. Vegetation is limited by the combination of salt spray and seabird activity. Sule Stack is a higher, bare rock with no vascular plants. The islands provide strategically placed nesting localities for large numbers of seabirds which feed in the waters off the north coast of Scotland outside the SPA. They also hold a diverse assemblage of largely pelagic species, including large numbers of petrels, auks and Gannet *Morus bassana*. It is one of only seven known nesting localities in the EU for Leach's Petrel *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*.

## 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Leach's Storm-petrel *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*, 5 pairs representing at least 0.0% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count, as at 1986)

Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*, 1,000 pairs representing at least 1.2% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count, as at 1986)

This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*During the breeding season;*

Gannet *Morus bassana*, 4,890 pairs representing at least 1.9% of the breeding North Atlantic population (Count, as at 1994)

Puffin *Fratercula arctica*, 43,380 pairs representing at least 4.8% of the breeding population (Count, as at 1993)

*Assemblage qualification: A seabird assemblage of international importance*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 seabirds

During the breeding season, the area regularly supports 100,000 individual seabirds including: Leach's Storm-petrel *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*, Guillemot *Uria aalge*, Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*, Puffin *Fratercula arctica*, Gannet *Morus bassana*, Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*.

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Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

# Sumburgh Head

## 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Shetland Islands	Classified 27/03/1996

Latitude	Longitude
59 51 55 N	01 16 05 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9002511	39.04



**Component SSSI/** Sumburgh Head  
**ASSIs**

Sumburgh Head is located at the most southern tip of the Shetland mainland in northern Scotland. The site comprises boulder-strewn beaches and cliffs up to 100 m high along the east side of Sumburgh Head. The site is of importance as a breeding area for several species of seabirds, including terns, auks and gulls. These seabirds feed outside the SPA, both in the waters immediately around Sumburgh Head, and further away.

## 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*, 700 pairs representing at least 1.6% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count as at 1994)

*Assemblage qualification: A seabird assemblage of international importance*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 seabirds

During the breeding season, the area regularly supports 35,000 individual seabirds (Count period ongoing) including: Guillemot *Uria aalge*, Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*, Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*, Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*.

Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Switha

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Orkney Islands	Classified 27/03/2000

Latitude	Longitude
58 47 08 N	03 06 00 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9002891	57.39



**Component SSSI/** Switha  
**ASSIs**

Switha is a small, uninhabited, low-lying grassy island at the southern end of the Orkney archipelago in northern Scotland. It lies 2 km east of South Walls (Hoy) and 2 km south of the island of Flotta. Switha has a rocky coastline with cliffs along the north, east and west shores, and is almost totally covered by maritime grassland, with smaller areas of heath and bog. Switha is of importance as a winter roosting site for Greenland Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*Over winter;*

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*, 1,000 individuals representing at least 3.7% of the wintering population in Great Britain (winter peak mean)

Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

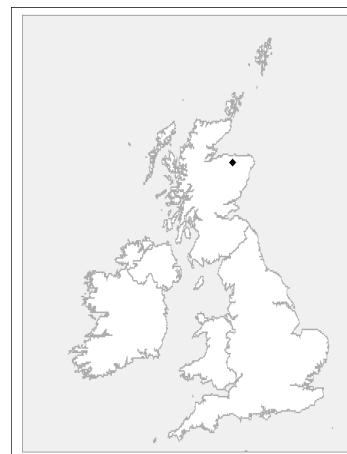
## Tips of Corsemaul and Tom Mor

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Aberdeenshire Moray	Classified 15/12/2000

Latitude	Longitude
57 26 30 N	03 35 00 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9002811	83.71



**Component SSSI/** Tips of Corsemaul and Tom Mor  
**ASSIs**

The Tips of Corsemaul and Tom Mor SPA (formerly known as Correen/Mortlach Hills) covers two areas of hill ground straddling the border between Moray and Aberdeenshire in north-east Scotland. The site supports heather moorland which, on the hilltops, has been converted to grassland, owing to nutrient enrichment from gull droppings. The site is of European importance for its large population of breeding Common Gull *Larus canus*.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*During the breeding season;*

Common Gull *Larus canus*, 18,000 pairs representing at least 14.5% of the breeding West and Central Europe population (1998)

## Tiree (corncrake)

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Argyll and Bute	Classified 27/03/2000

Latitude	Longitude
56 28 20 N	06 55 00 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9003034	544.08



**Component SSSI/** Non-SSSI  
**ASSIs**

The island of Tiree lies in the Inner Hebrides of western Scotland, 17 km west of Mull in Argyll and Bute. The site referred to as Tiree (corncrake) lies close to Ben Hynish, near the south coast of the island, and includes areas of agricultural hay meadows, silage fields, pasture, arable fields, marsh, *Iris* beds and rock outcrops. It supports a breeding population of Corncrake *Crex crex* of European importance.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Corncrake *Crex crex*, 47 individuals representing at least 9.8% of the breeding population in Great Britain (1993–1997)

## Treshnish Isles

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Argyll and Bute	Classified 30/08/1994

Latitude	Longitude
56 29 30 N	06 25 10 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9003041	240.67



**Component SSSI/ASSIs** Treshnish Isles

The Treshnish Isles are located in the Inner Hebrides of western Scotland. They are a series of small islands and skerries off the west coast of Mull in Argyll. They are rocky, with cliffs, screes and raised beaches, and support strongly maritime grassland and heath. The islands are important for their breeding seabird colonies, especially Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*. The most important seabird colonies are on Lunga, which supports the majority of Storm Petrels. The Treshnish Isles are also of importance as a traditional wintering locality for Greenland Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*, 5,040 pairs representing at least 5.9% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count, as at 1996)

*Over winter;*

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*, 82 individuals representing at least 0.3% of the wintering population in Great Britain (Three count mean, 1994, 1955 & 1997)

Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Troup, Pennan and Lion's Heads

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Aberdeenshire	Classified 14/03/1997

Latitude	Longitude
57 41 00 N	02 15 05 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9002471	174.22



**Component SSSI/ASSIs** Gamrie & Pennan Coast

The Troup, Pennan and Lion's head SPA is a 9 km stretch of sea-cliffs along the Banff and Buchan coast of Aberdeenshire in north-east Scotland. As well as cliffs, the site also includes adjacent areas of grassland and heath, and several small sand or shingle beaches punctuate the otherwise rocky shore. The cliffs rise to 150 m and provide ideal nesting sites for seabirds, which feed in the rich waters offshore and outside the SPA. Different parts of the cliffs are used by different species of seabirds according to varying ecological requirements. The site is particularly important for its numbers of gulls and auks.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*During the breeding season;*

Guillemot *Uria aalge*, 29,902 pairs representing at least 1.3% of the breeding East Atlantic population (Count as at 1995)

*Assemblage qualification: A seabird assemblage of international importance*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 seabirds

During the breeding season, the area regularly supports 150,000 individual seabirds (Count, as at 1995) including: Razorbill *Alca torda*, Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*, Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*, Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*, Guillemot *Uria aalge*.

Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## West Westray

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Orkney Islands	Classified 16/08/1996

Latitude	Longitude
59 17 40 N	03 00 45 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9002101	350.62



**Component SSSI/ ASSIs**      West Westray

The SPA is located on the west coast of the island of Westray, one of the most northerly of the Orkney islands in northern Scotland. The site comprises an 8 km length of Old Red Sandstone cliffs, together with adjoining areas of species-rich maritime grassland and heath. The area is rich in cliff-top plants including the nationally scarce Scottish Primrose *Primula scotica*, Sea Plantain *Plantago maritima*, and Spring Squill *Scilla verna*. The cliffs support large colonies of breeding auks and Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*, whilst the grassland and heathland areas support breeding colonies of skuas and terns. The seabirds feed in the surrounding waters outside the SPA.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*, 1,200 pairs representing at least 2.7% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count, as at 1997)

This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*During the breeding season;*

Guillemot *Uria aalge*, 28,274 pairs representing at least 1.3% of the breeding East Atlantic population (Count as at 1988)

*Assemblage qualification: A seabird assemblage of international importance*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 seabirds

During the breeding season, the area regularly supports 120,000 individual seabirds including: Razorbill *Alca torda*, Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*, Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*, Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*, Guillemot *Uria aalge*, Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*.

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Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Wester Ross Lochs

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Highland	Classified 07/12/2000

Latitude	Longitude
57 45 00 N	05 27 00 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9001711	1980.26



**Component SSSI/ASSIs** Ardlair–Letterewe  
Wester Ross Lochs

The Wester Ross Lochs are located to the north-west of Kinlochewe in the western Highlands of Scotland. The site comprises a cluster of 13 oligotrophic, freshwater lochs ranging from 25–320 m above sea level, surrounded by heath and blanket bog. These lochs are (from west to east): Loch Kernsary, Loch a' Bhaid-luachraich, Lochan Dubh Druim na h-Airde, Loch Fada, Loch na Moine Buige, Fionn Loch, Loch na h-Uidhe, Lochan Beannach Mor, Lochan Beannach Beg, Loch a' Mhadaidh Mor, Loch Garbhaig, Lochan Fada and Loch an Sgeirach. These lochs have intricate shorelines and islands, and mostly support typical oligotrophic fauna and flora. Several of the islands support relict examples of the original vegetation cover of Wester Ross (little of which now remains elsewhere). The site supports a breeding population of European importance of the Annex I species Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*. Of the regular breeding territories within the site, not all are occupied each year. This population has higher than average productivity (one-third greater than the national average between 1986 and 1998). The combination of large population size and high productivity means that the site makes a significant contribution to the production of fledged chicks in Scotland as a whole.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*, 8 pairs representing at least 5.0% of the breeding population in Great Britain (1986–1996)

## Westwater

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Scottish Borders	Classified 27/11/1995

Latitude	Longitude
55 45 30 N	03 24 30 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9004251	49.77



**Component SSSI/ASSIs**      Westwater

Westwater Reservoir is located in the Pentland Hills of southern Scotland. It is an artificial reservoir forming part of the Lothian water supply. Westwater regularly provides a winter roost for many wildfowl, including large numbers of Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*. The geese feed in surrounding areas of agricultural land outside the SPA.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*Over winter;*

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*, 31,127 individuals representing at least 13.8% of the wintering Eastern Greenland/Iceland/UK population (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6)

*Assemblage qualification: A wetland of international importance.*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 waterfowl

Over winter, the area regularly supports 31,465 individual waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6) including: Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*.

Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.

## Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch

### 1. SPA description

Country	Unitary Authority	SPA status
Scotland	Aberdeenshire	Classified 30/03/1998

Latitude	Longitude
57 20 30 N	01 57 30 W

SPA EU code	Area (ha)
UK9002221	1016.24



**Component SSSI/ASSIs** Meikle Loch & Kippit Hills  
Ythan Estuary & Sands of Forvie

Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch are located north of Aberdeen on the east coast of Scotland. The site comprises the long, narrow estuary of the River Ythan and Meikle Loch. At its mouth, the river splits an extensive area of sand dunes with the Forveran Links on the west bank and the Sands of Forvie dune system on the east bank. Extensive mud-flats in the upper reaches of the estuary are replaced by coarser gravels with Mussel *Mytilus edulis* beds closer to the sea. The margins of the estuary are varied, with areas of saltmarsh, reedbed and poor fen. Meikle Loch is an important roost site for geese, which feed away from the SPA on surrounding farmland in winter. It is a eutrophic loch supporting limited aquatic vegetation. In summer the coastal habitats of the dunes and estuary provide an important breeding site for three species of tern, whilst in winter the estuary holds large numbers of waders, ducks and geese.

### 2. Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

*During the breeding season;*

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*, 265 pairs representing up to 2.2% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count, as at early 1990s)

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*, 41 pairs representing up to 1.7% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count, as at early 1990s)

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*, 600 pairs representing up to 4.3% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Seabird Census Register)

This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

*Over winter;*

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*, 17,213 individuals representing up to 7.7% of the wintering Eastern Greenland/Iceland/UK population (winter peak means)

*Assemblage qualification: A wetland of international importance.*

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 waterfowl

Over winter, the area regularly supports 51,265 individual waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1991/2–1995/6) including: Redshank *Tringa totanus*, Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, Eider *Somateria mollissima*, Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*.

Note that sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year.



# Appendix 8

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## Phased, extended and subsumed SPAs

The UK SPA network has developed over two decades. Because of improved knowledge of bird distribution and other factors, some sites have been enlarged, whilst others have been classified progressively. This Appendix explains the UK approach to phased classifications, subsumed sites and extended sites.

### A8.1 'Subsumed' sites

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Some early SPAs have been significantly extended. As the Birds Directive contains no provision for declassification, however, it has not been possible to declassify a small site simultaneously with the classification of the extended, surrounding area. Some SPAs have therefore been 'double designated'; that is, the area of the original classification has been included within the new extended site classification. In such cases, care has been taken to avoid double counting the areas, and bird populations, for both reporting purposes and in this review.

This approach has been adopted for the following SPAs:

- Alt Estuary [UK9005102] – 28 November 1985 (now part of the Ribble and Alt Estuaries);
- Derwent Ings [UK9006091] – 17 July 1985 (now part of Lower Derwent Valley);
- Feur Lochain [UK9003056] – 25 April 1990, and Glac na Criche [UK9003055] – 25 April 1990 (both now parts of Rinns of Islay);
- Lochs Druidibeg, a' Machair [UK9001081] – 31 August 1982 (now part of South Uist Machair and Lochs);
- Old Hall Marshes [UK9009241] – 11 March 1992 (now part of Blackwater Estuary);
- Orfordness – Havergate [UK9009111] – 31 August 1982 (now part of Alde – Ore Estuary);
- Ribble Estuary [UK9005101] – 31 August 1982 (now part of the Ribble and Alt Estuaries);
- River Crouch Marshes [UK9009244] – 24 March 1995 (now part of Crouch and Roach Estuaries (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 3));
- Rockcliffe Marsh [UK9005011] – 1 October 1986 (now part of Upper Solway Flats and Marshes);
- Moor House [UK9006271] – 31 August 1982 (now part of North Pennine Moors);
- Swan Island [UK9020041] – 11 March 1992 (now part of Larne Lough); and
- the Upper Severn Estuary [UK9015021] – 5 February 1988 (now part of the Severn Estuary).

## A8.2 Extended sites

A number of early SPAs (until about 1986) were based on sites within public ownership – *i.e.* National Nature Reserves. These early classifications also focused on areas supporting large numbers of birds, rather than an analysis of species' needs. Such sites included Moor House, Rum, Skomer and the Ribble Estuary (1982), Derwent Ings and the Farne Islands (1985), and Grassholm and Rockcliffe Marshes (1986). In some cases the boundaries of these early designations related rather more to land tenure, than to the ecological requirements of the birds. These early SPAs have since been extended to more accurately reflect the ornithological interest. For example, the 117 ha Orfordness – Havergate SPA (1982) now lies within the 2,417 ha Alde – Ore Estuary SPA (1996), and the 1,897 ha Rockcliffe Marshes SPA now forms part of the 30,706 ha Upper Solway Flats and Marshes (1992).

This approach has been adopted where small initial classifications have subsequently been subject to major revision and enlargement. A different approach has been adopted where relatively small areas have been added to large original SPAs. In such circumstances the extensions have been treated, for reporting purposes, as part of the original classification.

## A8.3 Phased sites

Another approach has been adopted for a small number of very large sites which are ecologically a single entity, but where their sheer size has made the classification process too complex. These sites have been sub-divided into a number of separate phases that have been classified separately. Alternatively, some sites have been listed as phases where they are small, and perhaps widely separated, but have a very strong ecological connectivity or similarities.

Ballochbuie, Scotland	Two phases: 12 June 1998 & 16 December 1998
Caithness Lochs, Scotland	Two phases: 1 February 1998 & 13 October 2000
Humber Estuary Flats and Marshes, England	Phase 1: 28 July 1994 Phase 2: due in 2001
Lochnagar, Scotland	Two phases: 12 June 1998 & 16 December 1998
Mid-Essex Coast, Essex	Phase 1: Dengie 24 March 1994 Phase 2: Colne Estuary 28 July 1994 Phase 3: Crouch and Roach Estuaries 24 March 1995 and 22 July 1998 Phase 4: Blackwater Estuary 12 May 1995 Phase 5: Foulness 4 October 1996
North Uist Machair and Islands, Scotland	Phase 1: 29 March 1999 Phase 2: 13 October 2000
Ribble and Alt Estuaries, England	Phase 1: separate classifications of the Ribble Estuary – 31 August 1982; and Alt Estuary – 28 November 1985 Phase 2: Ribble and Alt Estuaries 16 February 1995 [Ribble and Alt Estuaries extension due in 2001]
Rinns of Islay, Scotland	Feur Lochain 25 April 1990 Glac na Criche 25 April 1990 Rinns of Islay 27 November 1995

South Pennine Moors, England

Phase 1: Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors phase 1) 29 March 1996  
Phase 2: South Pennine Moors 26 June 1997  
[South Pennine Moors extension 30 November 2000]

South Uist Machair and Lochs, Scotland

Loch Druidibeg, Loch a' Machair & Loch Stilligary 31 August 1982  
South Uist Machair and Lochs 1 December 1997

The Wash, England

Phase 1: The Wash 30 March 1988  
Phase 2: Gibraltar Point 5 March 1993

Wealden Heaths, England

Phase 1: Thursley, Hankley and Frensham Commons (Wealden Heaths phase 1) 14 February 1994  
Phase 2: Wealden Heaths 16 March 1998