

EC Directive 79/409 on the Conservation of Wild Birds: Special Protection Area (SPA)

Name: North York Moors

Unitary Authority/County: North Yorkshire County and Redcar & Cleveland Unitary Authority

Consultation proposal: North York Moors Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) (which includes the renotification of Tripsdale SSSI, Fylingdales Moor SSSI and May Moss SSSI) has been recommended has a Special Protection Area because of the site's European Ornithological importance.

The North York Moors SPA contains the largest continuous tract of heather moorland in England. The site displays a wide range of high quality dry heathland and blanket bog vegetation types dominated by *Calluna*. The transition from dry heathland to blanket bog is complemented by a diverse mosaic of wet heath and flush communities.

Boundary of SPA: The SPA boundary is coincident with North York Moors SSSI. See SPA map for detail of boundary.

Size of SPA: The SPA covers an area of 44,087.68 ha.

European ornithological importance of the SPA: North York Moors SPA is of European importance because:

The site qualifies under **article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) as it is used regularly by 1% or more of the Great Britain population of two species listed in Annex I in any season:

Annex I species	Estimated breeding population 1996	% GB population
Merlin <i>Falco columbarius</i>	35 - 40 pairs	2.7 - 3.1 % GB
Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	526 -706 pairs	2.3- 3.1 % GB

Data sources:

Charlton, T. & Archer, R (1996). *North York Moors National Park breeding wader survey 1996*. RSPB.

Nattrass, M. & Downing, R. (1991) *Survey of merlins breeding in the North York Moors National Park, 1991*. RSPB.

Rebecca, G. & Bainbridge, I (In press) The status of breeding merlin *Falco columbarius* in Britain in 1993-94. *Bird study*.

Stone, B.H., Sears, J.E., Cranswick, P.A., Gregory, R.D., Gibbons, D.W., Rehfisch, M.M., Aebischer, N.J. & Reid, J.B. (1997) Population estimates of birds in Britain and the United Kingdom. *British Birds* 90:1-22.

Non-qualifying species of interest

In addition, the site supports a rich upland breeding bird assemblage which includes Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*, Peregrine *Falco peregrinus* and Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus* (all Annex I species), together with Redshank *Tringa totanus*, Red Grouse *Lagopus lagopus scoticus* and a nationally important population of Curlew *Numenius arquata*.

Status of SPA:

North York Moors was classified as a Special Protection Area on 12 May 2000.