

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

Name: Solent and Southampton Water

Unitary Authority/County: Hampshire County Council, New Forest District Council, Test Valley Borough Council, Southampton City Council Unitary Authority, Eastleigh Borough Council, Fareham District Council and Isle of Wight Council Unitary Authority.

Consultation proposal: The Solent and Southampton Water SPA site comprises a series of estuaries and adjacent coastal habitats important for breeding gulls and terns and wintering waterfowl. The following SSSIs; Lymington River Reedbeds, Sowley Pond, Hythe to Calshot Marshes, Eling and Bury Marshes, Lower Test Valley, Lincegrove and Hacketts Marshes and Titchfield Haven, and parts of Yar Estuary, Hurst Castle and Lymington River Estuary, North Solent, Lee-on-Solent to Itchen Estuary, Upper Hamble Estuary and Woods, Newtown Harbour, Thorness Bay, Medina Estuary, King's Quay Shore, Ryde Sands and Wootton Creek, Brading Marshes to St Helen's Ledges, Whitecliff Bay and Bembridge Ledges have been recommended as a Special Protection Area because of their European ornithological importance.

Status: Classified 1 October 1998.

Boundary of SPA: SPA boundary is coincident with Lymington River Reedbeds SSSI, Sowley Pond SSSI, Hythe to Calshot Marshes SSSI and Titchfield Haven SSSI and includes parts of the other SSSI listed above. See map for clarification of the SPA boundary.

European ornithological importance of SPA

Solent and Southampton Water SPA is of European importance because:

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

Annex 1 species	5 yr peak mean	Count years
Mediterranean Gull <i>Larus melanocephalus</i>	2 pairs (8.2-13.9% GB)	1994-1998
Sandwich tern <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>	231 pairs (1.7 % GB)	1993-1997
Common tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i>	267 pairs (2.2 % GB)	1993-1997
Little tern <i>Sterna albifrons</i>	49 pairs (2 % GB)	1993-1997
Roseate tern <i>Sterna dougalli</i>	2 pairs (3.1 % GB)	1993-1997

Bird Numbers from: JNCC Seabird Colony Register

b) The site qualifies under article 4.2 of the Birds Directive (79/409/EEC) as it is used regularly by 1% or more of the biogeographic population of a regularly occurring migratory species (other than those listed in Annex 1) in any season.

Non- Annex 1 migratory bird species	5 yr peak mean from -1992/93-1996/97
Dark-bellied brent geese <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i>	7506 ¹ (2.5% W Siberia/W Europe)
Teal <i>Anas crecca</i>	4,400 ¹ (1.1% NW Europe)
Ringed plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	552 ¹ (1.1% Europe/NW Africa)
Black-tailed godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i>	1125 ¹ (1.6 % Iceland)

Bird Numbers from: WeBS Wildfowl & Waders database

Unit of population size: I- individual birds wintering

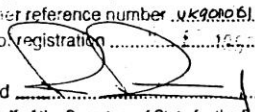
c) The site is used regularly by over 20,000 waterfowl (waterfowl as defined by the Ramsar Convention) or 20,000 seabirds in any season.

5 yr peak mean from 1992/93- 1996/97	
51,361 ¹	(21,401 wildfowl 29,960 waders)

Unit of population size: I- individual birds wintering

Additional non-qualifying interest

An outstanding assemblage of wintering and passage birds are dependent on wetland habitats within the site, including the following Annex 1 species not mentioned previously: red-throated diver *Gavia stellata*, black-throated diver *G. arctica*, great northern diver *G. immer*, Slavonian grebe *Podiceps auritus*, little egret *Egretta garzetta*, hen harrier *Circus cyaneus*, marsh harrier *Circus aeruginosus*, merlin *Falco columbarius*, peregrine *Falco peregrinus* and short-eared owl *Asio flammeus*.

This citation / map relates to a site entered in
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 Signed 
 on behalf of the Secretary of State for the Environment