

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

Name: Poole Harbour

Unitary Authority/County: Dorset County Council and Poole Borough Unitary Authority

Consultation proposal: Parts of Poole Harbour SSSI, Arne SSSI, Wareham Meadows SSSI, The Moors SSSI, Holton and Sandford Heaths SSSI and Studland and Godlingston Heaths SSSI have been recommended as a Special Protection Area because of the site's European ornithological interest.

Poole Harbour SPA is a large natural harbour comprising of extensive tidal mudflats and saltmarshes together with associated reedbeds, freshwater marshes and wet grasslands.

Boundary of SPA: SPA boundary only includes parts of the above SSSIs. See SPA map .

European ornithological interest of SPA

Poole Harbour SPA is of European importance because:

a) 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 3 species listed on Annex 1 in any season:

Annex 1 species	5 yr peak mean		
Avocet <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	459 ^I	36.1 % GB	(1992/93 - 1996/97)
Mediterranean gull <i>Larus melanocephalus</i>	5 ^P	22.7-38.5 % GB	(1993-1997)
Common tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i>	155 ^P	1.3 % GB	(1993-1997)

^P = Pairs ^I = Individuals. Figures from: WeBS and JNCC Seabird Register databases

b) The site qualifies under **article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) as it is used regularly by 1% or more of the following internationally important bird populations in any season:

Migratory species	5 yr peak mean for 1992/93 - 1996/97	
Black-tailed godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i>	1576 ^I	2.3% Iceland
Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	3569 ^I	1.2% NW Europe

^I = Individuals. Figures from: WeBS database

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

Period	Peak mean
1993/94- 1996/97 (1992/93 - 1996/97)	25,091 ¹ (23,498- based on no data for wildfowl in 1992/93)

¹ = Individuals. Figures from: WeBS database

Non-qualifying species of interest

In addition, the site supports an important assemblage of birds which includes golden plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, sandwich tern *Sterna sandvicensis*, Bewick's swan *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*, black-throated diver *Gavia arctica*, red-throated diver *Gavia stellata*, great northern diver *Gavia immer*, Slavonian grebe *Podiceps auritus*, marsh harrier *Circus aeruginosus*, hen harrier *Circus cyaneus*, short-eared owl *Asio flammeus*, peregrine *Falco peregrinus*, kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* and ruff *Philomachus pugnax* (all Annex 1 species). Although Poole Harbour SPA supports 10 individuals or 1.5% GB population of ruff (Annex 1 species) this species has not been included as a qualifying interest because their numbers are below the 50 birds normally used as a minimum qualifying number for waterfowl.

Poole Harbour SPA also supports nationally important populations of dunlin *Calidris maritima*, cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*, dark-bellied Brent geese *Branta bernicla bernicla*, teal *Anas crecca*, goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*, red-breasted merganser *Mergus serrator*, curlew *Numenius arquata*, spotted redshank *Tringa erythropus*, greenshank *Tringa nebularia*, redshank *Tringa totanus*, pochard *Aythya ferina* and black-headed gull *Larus ridibundus*.

This citation / map relates to a site entered in the Register of European sites for Great Britain.

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Signed 

on behalf of the Secretary of State for the Environment