

Directive 2009/147/EC on the Conservation of Wild Birds Special Protection Area (SPA)

Name: Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore.

Unitary Authority/County: Sefton, Wirral.

Boundary of the SPA: The SPA boundary is coincident with the boundaries of North Wirral Foreshore Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Mersey Narrows SSSI.

Site description: Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore is located on the northwest 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 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.

Size of SPA: 2,078.41 ha.

Qualifying species:

The site qualifies under **article 4.1** of the Directive (2009/147/EC) as it is used regularly by 1% or more of the Great Britain populations of the following species listed in Annex I in any season:

Species	Count (period)	% of population
Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i>	3,344 individuals – non-breeding (2008/09)	6.6% GB
Common Tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i>	177 pairs - breeding (2005 - 2009)	1.8% GB

In addition it is one of the most important locations in the UK for:

Species	Count (period)	% of population
Little Gull <i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>	213 individuals – non-breeding (2004/05 – 2008/09)	No national population estimate
Common Tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i>	1,475 individuals – non-breeding (2004 – 2008)	No national population estimate

The site qualifies under **article 4.2** of the Directive (2009/147/EC) as it is used regularly by 1% or more of the biogeographical populations of the following regularly occurring migratory species (other than those listed in Annex I) in any season:

Species	Count (period)	% of population
Knot <i>Calidris canutus islandica</i>	10,655 individuals - non-breeding (2004/05 - 2008/09)	2.4% W Europe/Waddensea/Britain/Ireland

Assemblage qualification:

The site qualifies under **article 4.2** of the Directive (2009/147/EC) as it is used regularly by over 20,000 waterbirds (waterbirds as defined by the Ramsar Convention) in any season:

In the non-breeding season, the area regularly supports 32,366 individual waterbirds (5 year peak mean 2004/05 - 2008/09), including: Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*, Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*, Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*, Sanderling *Calidris alba*, Knot *Calidris canutus*, Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*, Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*, Redshank *Tringa totanus*.

Bird counts from: Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) database, Cheshire and Wirral Bird Reports 2004-2009 and the JNCC Seabird Monitoring Programme.

This citation relates to a site entered in the Register of European Sites for England.
Register reference number: UK9020287
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Signed:

On behalf of the Secretary of State for
Environment, Food and Rural Affairs