

EC Directive 79/409 on the Conservation of Wild Birds  
Special Protection Area

Hornsea Mere, Humberside

Hornsea Mere is the only remaining mere in Holderness, Humberside and is the only major fresh water body for wintering ducks in a wide area. It consists of a large, shallow (in general only 1-2m), eutrophic lake of 120 hectares (300 acres), together with associated fen, carr woodland and reedswamp dominated by common reed *Phragmites australis*, reedmace *Typha latifolia* and grey club-rush *Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani*.

The boundary of the Hornsea Mere proposed Special Protection Area follows that of the Hornsea Mere SSSI.

Hornsea Mere qualifies under Article 4.2 of the EC Birds Directive by regularly supporting an internationally important wintering population of gadwall *Anas strepera*, with an average peak count (in the five year period 1987/88 - 1991/1992) of 210 (being 1.8% of the North West European population and 3.6% of the British wintering population). The site also supports nationally important wintering populations of a further four species (average peak counts 1987/88 - 1991/92): 240 goldeneye *Bucephala clangula* (over 1% of the British wintering population), 760 pochard *Aythya ferina* (over 1% of the British wintering population), 100 shoveler *Anas clypeata* (over 1% of British wintering population) and 640 tufted duck *Aythya fuligula* (over 1% of British wintering population).

The site also qualifies by supporting a nationally important post breeding and moulting population of mute swan *Cygnus olor*. In the five year period 1988-1992, an average peak count of 189 mute swans was recorded, being 1% of the British population.

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Signed B/S  
on behalf of the Secretary of State for the Environment