

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

Name: Lee Valley

Unitary Authority/County: Essex, Hertfordshire, London Borough of Haringey and London Borough of Waltham Forest.

Consultation proposal: Amwell Quarry Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Rye Meads SSSI, Turnford & Cheshunt Pits SSSI and Walthamstow Reservoirs SSSI have been recommended as a Special Protection Area because of the site's European ornithological interest.

The Lee Valley SPA comprises a series of embanked water supply reservoirs, sewage treatment lagoons and former gravel pits that display a range of man-made and semi-natural wetland and valley bottom habitats.

Boundary of SPA: The SPA boundary is coincident with the above SSSI boundaries. See SPA map for further detail.

Size of SPA: The SPA covers an area of 447.87 ha.

European ornithological interest of SPA: The 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 a species listed on Annex I, in any season:

Annex I species	5 year peak mean 1992/93 - 1996/97	% GB population
Bittern <i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	6 individuals - wintering	6%

- 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 biogeographical populations of the following regularly occurring migratory species (other than those listed on Annex I), in any season:

Migratory species	5 year peak mean 1993/94 -1997/98	% of population
Shoveler <i>Anas clypeata</i>	406 individuals - wintering	1.0% NW/Central Europe
Gadwall <i>Anas strepera</i>	456 individuals - wintering	1.5% NW Europe

Bird figures from: Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) database.

Non-qualifying species of interest

In addition, the site supports nationally important numbers of Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*, Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*, Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*, Pochard *Aythya ferina* and Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*.

Status of SPA

Lee Valley was classified as a Special Protection Area on 22 September 2000.