

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

Name: Thorne and Hatfield Moors

Unitary Authority/County: Doncaster, East Riding of Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire

Consultation proposal: Thorne, Crowle and Goole Moors Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Hatfield Moors SSSI have been recommended as a Special Protection Area because of their European ornithological importance.

Boundary of SPA: See SPA map.

Size of SPA: The SPA covers an area of 2,449.2 ha.

European ornithological importance of the SPA: Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA is of European importance because:

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 in Annex 1 in any season:

Annex 1 species	5 year peak mean 1993 & 1995 - 1998	% GB population
Nightjar <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>	66 pairs - breeding	1.9% GB

Non-qualifying species of interest

The site also supports small numbers (at non-qualifying levels) of other Annex 1 species: Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*, Merlin *Falco columbarius* and Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus* hunt over the site in winter and at least one pair of Hobbies *Falco subbuteo* feed over the site in summer. Also notable are Nighthingales *Luscinia megarhynchos* breeding at one of their most northerly regular sites in Britain.

Data sources

Limbert, M., Mitchell, R.D., & Rhodes, R.J. 1986. *Thorne Moors Birds & Man*. Doncaster & District Ornithological Society.

Morris, A., Burges, D., Fuller, R.J., Evans, A.D., & Smith, K.W. 1994. The status and distribution of Nightjars *Caprimulgus europaeus* in Britain in 1992. *Bird Study* **41**: 181-191.

Roworth, P.C. 1992. A common bird census on Thorne Moors National Nature Reserve, South Yorkshire - a relic cut-over raised mire. *The Naturalist* **117**: 5-18.

Status of SPA

Thorne and Hatfield Moors was classified as a Special Protection Area on 16 August 2000.

