

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

TAMAR ESTUARIES COMPLEX (DEVON, CORNWALL)

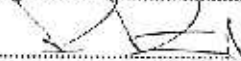
The Tamar Estuaries Complex proposed Special Protection Area comprises several estuaries bordering Devon and Cornwall on the south-coast of England. Intertidal sand, mudflats and areas of saltmarsh support nationally important numbers of wintering and passage waterfowl. The pSPA includes all of St. John's Lake SSSI and parts of the Tamar-Tavy Estuary and Lynher Estuary SSSIs.

The pSPA qualifies under Article 4.1 of the Birds Directive by supporting nationally important numbers of two species listed on Annex 1. Numbers of little egrets *Egretta garzetta* on the site have increased dramatically in recent years, reaching a peak of 102 birds in October 1995 (more than 20% of the British population). During the five year period 1990/91 to 1993/94 the site supported a peak mean of 194 avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta* in winter, representing 19.4% of the British population.

The site also supports nationally important numbers of wintering shelduck (four year peak mean for 1990/91 to 1993/94 was 842 birds, representing 1.1% of the British population) and black-tailed godwit *Limosa limosa* (four year peak mean for 1990/91 to 1993/94 was 95 birds, representing 1.3% of the British population). Nationally important numbers of whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* occur in autumn (four year peak mean was 74 birds, representing 1.5% of the British passage population). In addition, the site supports wintering dunlin *Calidris alpina*, curlew *Numenius arquata*, and redshank *Tringa totanus* in numbers that approach, and, in some years, exceed levels of national importance.

SPA Citation
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Signed 
on behalf of the Secretary of State for the Environment