

**EC DIRECTIVE 79/409 ON THE CONSERVATION OF WILD BIRDS
SPECIAL PROTECTION AREA**

RUTLAND WATER (LEICESTERSHIRE)

The site qualifies also under article 4.2 as a wetland of international importance by regularly supporting in winter, over 20,000 waterfowl. During the five winter period 1985/86 to 1989/90 the average peak count was 21,050 birds. It regularly supports in winter internationally or nationally important numbers of the following migratory wildfowl species; 520 great crested grebe *Podiceps cristatus* (6% of the British population), 200 mute swan *Cygnus olor* (1% of British), 4,380 wigeon *Anas penelope* (2% of British), 1,320 gadwall *Anas strepera* (11% of North West European, 22% of British), 1,140 teal *Anas crecca* (1% of British), 450 shoveler *Anas clypeata* (1% of NW European, 5% of British), 3,230 tufted duck *Aythya fuligula* (5% of British), 285 goldeneye *Bucephala clangula* (2% of British), 60 goosander *Mergus merganser* (1% of British) and 4,600 coot *Fulica atra* (2% of British).

As well as its importance for the individual species listed above, the site is also of strong scientific and nature conservation interest for supporting a diverse assemblage of wintering wildfowl.

SPA citation

July 1991

This citation / map relates to a site entered in
the Register of European sites for Great Britain.
Register reference number UK 000805
Date of registration 3.0. JAN. 1996
Signed Burke
on behalf of the Secretary of State for the Environment