

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

Portsmouth Harbour, Hampshire

Portsmouth Harbour is a large industrialised estuary and includes one of the four largest expanses of mudflats and tidal creeks on the south coast of Britain. The Wallington River flows into the north-west of the estuary and gives rise to Fareham Creek, the most notable channel. Together with the adjacent Langstone and Chichester Harbours, Portsmouth Harbour forms an unusual intertidal ecosystem receiving comparatively little fresh water and possessing a characteristic hydrology arising from only narrow connections to the sea via the Solent.

Portsmouth Harbour is adjacent to the existing Chichester and Langstone Harbours Special Protection Area. The boundary of Portsmouth Harbour proposed Special Protection Area follows the seaward side of Burrow Island, Foxbury Point, Portchester, Horsea Island and Whale Island ending to the south of the latter. The seaward boundary is the Mean Low Water Mark. It also incorporates several inlets including Gosport and Paulsgrove.

Portsmouth Harbour qualifies under Article 4.2 of the Birds Directive by supporting internationally or nationally important wintering populations of the following species of migratory waterfowl (average peak counts for the five year period 1986/87 to 1990/91): 2,290 dark-bellied brent geese *Branta bernicla bernicla* (1.3% of the north-west European population and 2.5% of the British wintering population), 100 red-breasted merganser *Mergus serrator* (1% of British), 70 black-tailed godwit *Limosa limosa* (over 1% of British) and 8,010 dunlin *Calidris alpina* (over 1% of British).

SPA Citation
DMC August 1992

This citation / map relates to a site entered in
the Register of European sites for Great Britain.
Register reference number WK001105
Date of registration 25 AUG 1998
Signed [Signature]
on behalf of the Secretary of State for the Environment

European Site Conservation Objectives for Portsmouth Harbour Special Protection Area Site Code: UK9011051



With regard to the SPA and the individual species and/or assemblage of species for which the site has been classified (the 'Qualifying Features' listed below), and subject to natural change;

Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring;

- **The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features**
- **The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features**
- **The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely**
- **The population of each of the qualifying features, and,**
- **The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.**

This document should be read in conjunction with the accompanying *Supplementary Advice* document, which provides more detailed advice and information to enable the application and achievement of the Objectives set out above.

Qualifying Features:

A046a *Branta bernicla bernicla*; Dark-bellied brent goose (Non-breeding)

A069 *Mergus serrator*; Red-breasted merganser (Non-breeding)

A149 *Calidris alpina alpina*; Dunlin (Non-breeding)

A156 *Limosa limosa islandica*; Black-tailed godwit (Non-breeding)

This is a European Marine Site

This SPA is a part of the Solent Maritime European Marine Site (EMS). These Conservation Objectives should be used in conjunction with the Conservation Advice document for the EMS. Natural England's formal Conservation Advice for European Marine Sites can be found via [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).

Explanatory Notes: European Site Conservation Objectives

These Conservation Objectives are those referred to in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) ('the Habitats Regulations'). They must be considered when a competent authority is required to make a 'Habitats Regulations Assessment' including an Appropriate Assessment, under the relevant parts of this legislation.

These Conservation Objectives, and the accompanying Supplementary Advice (where this is available), will also provide a framework to inform the management of the European Site and the prevention of deterioration of habitats and significant disturbance of its qualifying features

These Conservation Objectives are set for each bird feature for a [Special Protection Area \(SPA\)](#).

Where these objectives are being met, the site will be considered to exhibit a high degree of integrity and to be contributing to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive.

Publication date: 21 February 2019 (version 3). This document updates and replaces an earlier version dated 30 June 2014 to reflect the consolidation of the Habitats Regulations in 2017.

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

Name: Solent and Southampton Water

Unitary Authority/County: Hampshire County Council, New Forest District Council, Test Valley Borough Council, Southampton City Council Unitary Authority, Eastleigh Borough Council, Fareham District Council and Isle of Wight Council Unitary Authority.

Consultation proposal: The Solent and Southampton Water SPA site comprises a series of estuaries and adjacent coastal habitats important for breeding gulls and terns and wintering waterfowl. The following SSSIs; Lymington River Reedbeds, Sowley Pond, Hythe to Calshot Marshes, Eling and Bury Marshes, Lower Test Valley, Lincegrove and Hacketts Marshes and Titchfield Haven, and parts of Yar Estuary, Hurst Castle and Lymington River Estuary, North Solent, Lee-on-Solent to Itchen Estuary, Upper Hamble Estuary and Woods, Newtown Harbour, Thorness Bay, Medina Estuary, King's Quay Shore, Ryde Sands and Wootton Creek, Brading Marshes to St Helen's Ledges, Whitecliff Bay and Bembridge Ledges have been recommended as a Special Protection Area because of their European ornithological importance.

Status: Classified 1 October 1998.

Boundary of SPA: SPA boundary is coincident with Lymington River Reedbeds SSSI, Sowley Pond SSSI, Hythe to Calshot Marshes SSSI and Titchfield Haven SSSI and includes parts of the other SSSI listed above. See map for clarification of the SPA boundary.

European ornithological importance of SPA

Solent and Southampton Water SPA is of European importance because:

a) The site qualifies under article 4.1 of the Birds 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 yr peak mean	Count years
Mediterranean Gull <i>Larus melanocephalus</i>	2 pairs (8.2-13.9% GB)	1994-1998
Sandwich tern <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>	231 pairs (1.7 % GB)	1993-1997
Common tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i>	267 pairs (2.2 % GB)	1993-1997
Little tern <i>Sterna albifrons</i>	49 pairs (2 % GB)	1993-1997
Roseate tern <i>Sterna dougalli</i>	2 pairs (3.1 % GB)	1993-1997

Bird Numbers from: JNCC Seabird Colony Register

b) The site qualifies under article 4.2 of the Birds Directive (79/409/EEC) as it is used regularly by 1% or more of the biogeographic population of a regularly occurring migratory species (other than those listed in Annex 1) in any season.

Non- Annex 1 migratory bird species	5 yr peak mean from -1992/93-1996/97
Dark-bellied brent geese <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i>	7506 ¹ (2.5% W Siberia/W Europe)
Teal <i>Anas crecca</i>	4,400 ¹ (1.1% NW Europe)
Ringed plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	552 ¹ (1.1% Europe/NW Africa)
Black-tailed godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i>	1125 ¹ (1.6 % Iceland)

Bird Numbers from: WeBS Wildfowl & Waders database
Unit of population size: I- individual birds wintering

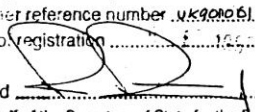
c) The site is used regularly by over 20,000 waterfowl (waterfowl as defined by the Ramsar Convention) or 20,000 seabirds in any season.

5 yr peak mean from 1992/93- 1996/97	
51,361 ¹	(21,401 wildfowl 29,960 waders)

Unit of population size: I- individual birds wintering

Additional non-qualifying interest

An outstanding assemblage of wintering and passage birds are dependent on wetland habitats within the site, including the following Annex 1 species not mentioned previously: red-throated diver *Gavia stellata*, black-throated diver *G. arctica*, great northern diver *G. immer*, Slavonian grebe *Podiceps auritus*, little egret *Egretta garzetta*, hen harrier *Circus cyaneus*, marsh harrier *Circus aeruginosus*, merlin *Falco columbarius*, peregrine *Falco peregrinus* and short-eared owl *Asio flammeus*.

This citation / map relates to a site entered in
 the Register of European sites for Great Britain.
 Register reference number UK900051
 Date of registration 1998
 Signed 
 on behalf of the Secretary of State for the Environment

European Site Conservation Objectives for Solent and Southampton Water Special Protection Area Site Code: UK9011061



With regard to the SPA and the individual species and/or assemblage of species for which the site has been classified (the 'Qualifying Features' listed below), and subject to natural change;

Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring;

- **The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features**
- **The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features**
- **The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely**
- **The population of each of the qualifying features, and,**
- **The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.**

This document should be read in conjunction with the accompanying *Supplementary Advice* document, which provides more detailed advice and information to enable the application and achievement of the Objectives set out above.

Qualifying Features:

A046a *Branta bernicla bernicla*; Dark-bellied brent goose (Non-breeding)

A052 *Anas crecca*; Eurasian teal (Non-breeding)

A137 *Charadrius hiaticula*; Ringed plover (Non-breeding)

A156 *Limosa limosa islandica*; Black-tailed godwit (Non-breeding)

A176 *Larus melanocephalus*; Mediterranean gull (Breeding)

A191 *Sterna sandvicensis*; Sandwich tern (Breeding)

A192 *Sterna dougallii*; Roseate tern (Breeding)

A193 *Sterna hirundo*; Common tern (Breeding)

A195 *Sterna albifrons*; Little tern (Breeding)

Waterbird assemblage

This is a European Marine Site

This SPA is a part of the the Solent Maritime European Marine Site (EMS). These Conservation Objectives should be used in conjunction with the Conservation Advice document for the EMS. Natural England's formal Conservation Advice for European Marine Sites can be found via [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).

Explanatory Notes: European Site Conservation Objectives

These Conservation Objectives are those referred to in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) ('the Habitats Regulations'). They must be considered when a competent authority is required to make a 'Habitats Regulations Assessment' including an Appropriate Assessment, under the relevant parts of this legislation.

These Conservation Objectives, and the accompanying Supplementary Advice (where this is available), will also provide a framework to inform the management of the European Site and the prevention of deterioration of habitats and significant disturbance of its qualifying features

These Conservation Objectives are set for each bird feature for a [Special Protection Area \(SPA\)](#).

Where these objectives are being met, the site will be considered to exhibit a high degree of integrity and to be contributing to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive.

Publication date: 21 February 2019 (version 3). This document updates and replaces an earlier version dated 30 June 2014 to reflect the consolidation of the Habitats Regulations in 2017.

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

CHICHESTER AND LANGSTONE HARBOURS (HAMPSHIRE/WEST SUSSEX)

The site is internationally important because it regularly supports more than 10,000 wintering wildfowl (average 25,000) and also by regularly supporting more than 20,000 wintering waders (average 77,000).

The site also supports internationally important numbers of the following species: grey plover Pluvialis squatarola (3.9% of the west European population), sanderling Calidris alba (3.1%), dunlin Calidris alpina (2.6% and over 20,000 birds), redshank Tringa totanus (1.4%), brent goose Branta bernicla (12%), shelduck Tadorna tadorna (4%), and teal Anas crecca (1%).

The site qualifies under Article 4.2 by supporting internationally important numbers of the migratory bird species listed above and nationally important wintering numbers of the following migratory bird species: ringed plover Charadrius hiaticula, curlew Numerius arquata, bar-tailed godwit Limosa lapponica, turnstone Arenaria interpres, wigeon Anas penelope, pintail Anas acuta, shoveler Anas clypeata and the red-breasted merganser Mergus serrator.

The site also qualifies under Article 4.1 because it provides a breeding site for three species of terns Sterna.

This citation / map relates to a site entered in
the Register of European sites for Great Britain.
Register reference number UK 001101
Date of registration 30 JAN 1996

Signed Byvo
on behalf of the Secretary of State for the Environment

European Site Conservation Objectives for Chichester and Langstone Harbours Special Protection Area Site Code: UK9011011



With regard to the SPA and the individual species and/or assemblage of species for which the site has been classified (the 'Qualifying Features' listed below), and subject to natural change;

Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring;

- **The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features**
- **The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features**
- **The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely**
- **The population of each of the qualifying features, and,**
- **The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.**

This document should be read in conjunction with the accompanying *Supplementary Advice* document, which provides more detailed advice and information to enable the application and achievement of the Objectives set out above.

Qualifying Features:

A046a *Branta bernicla bernicla*; Dark-bellied brent goose (Non-breeding)

A048 *Tadorna tadorna*; Common shelduck (Non-breeding)

A050 *Anas penelope*; Eurasian wigeon (Non-breeding)

A052 *Anas crecca*; Eurasian teal (Non-breeding)

A054 *Anas acuta*; Northern pintail (Non-breeding)

A056 *Anas clypeata*; Northern shoveler (Non-breeding)

A069 *Mergus serrator*; Red-breasted merganser (Non-breeding)

A137 *Charadrius hiaticula*; Ringed plover (Non-breeding)

A141 *Pluvialis squatarola*; Grey plover (Non-breeding)

A144 *Calidris alba*; Sanderling (Non-breeding)

A149 *Calidris alpina alpina*; Dunlin (Non-breeding)

A157 *Limosa lapponica*; Bar-tailed godwit (Non-breeding)

A160 *Numenius arquata*; Eurasian curlew (Non-breeding)

A162 *Tringa totanus*; Common redshank (Non-breeding)

A169 *Arenaria interpres*; Ruddy turnstone (Non-breeding)

A191 *Sterna sandvicensis*; Sandwich tern (Breeding)

A193 *Sterna hirundo*; Common tern (Breeding)

A195 *Sterna albifrons*; Little tern (Breeding)

Waterbird assemblage

This is a European Marine Site

This SPA is a part of the Solent Maritime European Marine Site (EMS). These Conservation Objectives should be used in conjunction with the Conservation Advice document for the EMS. Natural England's formal Conservation Advice for European Marine Sites can be found via [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).

Explanatory Notes: European Site Conservation Objectives

These Conservation Objectives are those referred to in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) ('the Habitats Regulations'). They must be considered when a competent authority is required to make a 'Habitats Regulations Assessment' including an Appropriate Assessment, under the relevant parts of this legislation.

These Conservation Objectives, and the accompanying Supplementary Advice (where this is available), will also provide a framework to inform the management of the European Site and the prevention of deterioration of habitats and significant disturbance of its qualifying features

These Conservation Objectives are set for each bird feature for a [Special Protection Area \(SPA\)](#).

Where these objectives are being met, the site will be considered to exhibit a high degree of integrity and to be contributing to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive.

Publication date: 21 February 2019 (version 3). This document updates and replaces an earlier version dated 30 June 2014 to reflect the consolidation of the Habitats Regulations in 2017.