

Special Protection Areas

Directive 79/409/EEC on the Conservation of Wild Birds ('the Birds Directive') was adopted on 2 April 1979. The Directive applies to birds, their eggs, nests and habitats. It provides for the protection, management and control of all species of naturally occurring wild birds in the European territory of Member States. It requires Member States to take measures to preserve a sufficient diversity of habitats for all species of wild birds naturally occurring within their territories in order to maintain populations at ecologically and scientifically sound levels. It also requires Member States to take special measures to conserve the habitats of certain particularly rare species and of migratory species. These special measures include the 'classification' (designation) of Special Protection Areas (SPAs). Special Protection Areas are classified by the Secretary of State. Many sites qualify for both SPA and Ramsar site designations.

English Nature carries out consultations on the proposed classifications with owners, occupiers, and local authorities. English Nature then submits the case for site classification to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

Details of the protection afforded to Special Protection Areas are given in Planning Policy Guidance Note 9, Nature Conservation, HMSO 1994 and The Conservation (National Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended).

Name	County	Area classified (ha)	Status	Date classified
Abberton Reservoir	Essex	726.2	Classified	05.12.91
Alde-Ore Estuary	Suffolk	2416.87	Classified	04.10.96
Arun Valley	West Sussex	528.62	Classified	03.12.99
Ashdown Forest	East Sussex	3207.08	Classified	11.03.96
Avon Valley	Dorset, Hampshire	1385.08	Classified	02.02.98
Benacre to Easton Bavents	Suffolk	516.83	Classified	04.10.96
Benfleet and Southend Marshes	Essex	2251.31	Classified	14.02.94
Blackwater Estuary (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 4)	Essex	4395.15	Classified	12.05.95
Bowland Fells	Lancashire	16002.31	Classified	16.12.93
Breckland	Norfolk, Suffolk	39987.6	Potential	
Breydon Water	Norfolk	1202.94	Classified	29.03.96
Broadland	Norfolk, Suffolk	5462.4	Classified	21.09.94
Chesil Beach and the Fleet	Dorset	748.11	Classified	17.07.85
Chew Valley Lake	Somerset	575.73	Classified	17.07.85
Chichester and Langstone Harbours	Hampshire, West Sussex	5810.03	Classified	28.10.87
Colne Estuary (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 2)	Essex	2701.43	Classified	28.07.94
Coquet Island	Northumberland	22.28	Classified	17.07.85
Crouch and Roach Estuaries (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 3)	Essex	1735.58	Classified	24.03.95
Deben Estuary	Suffolk	978.93	Classified	11.03.96
Dengie (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 1)	Essex	3127.23	Classified	24.03.94

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Dorset Heathlands	Dorset	8168.79	Classified	01.10.98
Duddon Estuary	Cumbria	6806.3	Classified	16.03.98
Dungeness to Pett Level	East Sussex, Kent	1474.04	Classified	02.08.99
East Devon Heaths	Devon	1119.94	Classified	29.06.98
Exe Estuary	Devon	2345.71	Classified	11.03.92
Farne Islands	Northumberland	101.86	Classified	17.07.85
Flamborough Head and Bempton Cliffs	East Riding of Yorkshire, North Yorkshire	212.17	Classified	05.03.93
Foulness (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 5)	Essex	10968.9	Classified	04.10.96
Gibraltar Point	Lincolnshire	414.09	Classified	05.03.93
Great Yarmouth North Denes	Norfolk	149.19	Classified	05.03.93
Hamford Water	Essex	2187.21	Classified	08.06.93
Holburn Lake and Moss	Northumberland	28.03	Classified	17.07.85
Hornsea Mere	East Riding of Yorkshire	231.2	Classified	05.03.93
Humber Flats, Marshes and Coast Phase 1	East Riding of Yorkshire, Lincolnshire	15202.53	Classified	28.07.94
Humber Flats, Marshes and Coast Phase 2	East Riding of Yorkshire, Lincolnshire	2188.08	Potential	
Isles of Scilly	Cornwall	401.64	Classified	10.08.01
Lee Valley	Essex, Greater London, Hertfordshire	447.87	Classified	22.09.00
Leighton Moss	Lancashire	128.61	Classified	28.11.85
Lindisfarne	Northumberland	3679.22	Classified	11.03.92
Lower Derwent Valley	East Riding of Yorkshire, North Yorkshire	915.45	Classified	08.06.93
Marazion Marsh	Cornwall	54.58	Classified	10.08.01
Martin Mere	Lancashire	119.89	Classified	28.11.85
Medway Estuary and Marshes	Kent	4684.36	Classified	15.12.93
Mersey Estuary	Cheshire, Merseyside	5033.14	Classified	20.12.95
Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore	Cheshire, Merseyside	2078.23	Potential	
Minsmere - Walberswick	Suffolk	2018.92	Classified	19.05.92
Morecambe Bay	Cumbria, Lancashire	37404.6	Classified	04.10.96
Nene Washes	Cambridgeshire	1517.49	Classified	05.03.93
New Forest	Hampshire, Wiltshire	28002.81	Classified	22.09.93
North Norfolk Coast	Norfolk	7862.39	Classified	20.01.89
North Pennine Moors	Cumbria, Durham, North Yorkshire, Northumberland	147246.41	Classified	09.02.01

Name	County	Area classified (ha)	Status	Date classified
North York Moors	North Yorkshire	44087.68	Classified	12.05.00
Northumbria Coast	Durham, Northumberland, Tyne & Wear	1107.98	Classified	02.02.00
Ouse Washes	Cambridgeshire, Norfolk	2447.26	Classified	05.03.93
Pagham Harbour	West Sussex	636.68	Classified	30.03.88
Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1)	Cheshire, Derbyshire, Greater Manchester, South Yorkshire, Staffordshire, West Yorkshire	45270.52	Classified	01.03.96
Poole Harbour	Dorset	2271.99	Classified	31.03.99
Porton Down	Hampshire, Wiltshire	1237.04	Classified	03.07.92
Portsmouth Harbour	Hampshire	1248.77	Classified	28.02.95
Ribble and Alt Estuaries	Lancashire, Merseyside	12412.31	Classified	16.02.95
Rutland Water	Rutland	1556.87	Classified	04.10.91
Salisbury Plain	Hampshire, Wiltshire	19688.88	Classified	03.11.93
Sandlings	Suffolk	3391.8	Classified	10.08.01
Severn Estuary	Gloucestershire, Gwent, Somerset, South Glamorgan	24662.98	Classified	13.07.95
Solent and Southampton Water	Hampshire, Isle of Wight	5505.86	Classified	01.10.98
Somerset Levels and Moors	Somerset	6388.49	Classified	26.06.97
South Pennine Moors Phase 2	Greater Manchester, Lancashire, North Yorkshire, West Yorkshire	20936.53	Classified	26.06.97
South-West London Water Bodies	Berkshire, Greater London, Surrey	828.14	Classified	22.09.00
Stodmarsh	Kent	481.33	Classified	16.12.93
Stour and Orwell Estuaries	Essex, Suffolk	3676.92	Classified	19.05.05
Tamar Estuaries Complex	Cornwall, Devon	1955	Classified	26.06.97
Teemouth and Cleveland Coast	Durham	1247.31	Classified	15.08.95
Thames Basin Heaths	Berkshire, Hampshire, Surrey	8274.72	Classified	09.03.05
Thames Estuary and Marshes	Essex, Kent	4838.94	Classified	31.03.00
Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay	Kent	1870.16	Classified	28.07.94
The Dee Estuary	Cheshire, Flintshire, Merseyside	13076.29	Classified	17.07.85

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The Swale	Kent	6514.71	Classified	17.07.85
The Wash	Lincolnshire, Norfolk	62211.66	Classified	30.03.88
Thorne and Hatfield Moors	East Riding of Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, South Yorkshire	2449.2	Classified	16.08.00
Thursley, Hankley and Frensham Commons (Wealden Heaths Phase 1)	Surrey	1869.95	Classified	14.02.94
Upper Solway Flats and Marshes	Cumbria, Dumfries & Galloway	43636.73	Classified	30.11.92
Walmore Common	Gloucestershire	52.85	Classified	05.12.91
Wealden Heaths Phase 2	Hampshire, Surrey, West Sussex	2053.83	Classified	16.03.98