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

THE NEW FOREST (HAMPSHIRE)

The site qualifies under Article 4.1 by regularly supporting in summer over 300 pairs of nightjar Caprimulgus europaeus (at least 15% of the British breeding population); 51-54 pairs of woodlarks Lullula arborea (about 24% of British); 454 pairs of Dartford warbler Sylvia undata (75% of British); and 2 pairs of Honey Buzzard (7% of British, confidential record). Notable also are up to 10 pairs of kingfisher Alcedo atthis.

In winter the site qualifies under Article 4.1 by regularly supporting about 15 hen harriers Circus cyaneus (2% of the British wintering population).

The New Forest also qualifies under Article 4.2 by supporting, in summer, up to 25 pairs of hobby Falco subbuteo (3% of the British breeding population) and in excess of 350 pairs of wood warbler Phylloscopus trochilus (at least 3% of British - the population size fluctuates and much larger numbers are present in some years). Notable also are breeding populations of of lapwing Vanellus vanellus (about 350 pairs); redshank Tringa totanus (120 pairs); curlew Numenius arquata (120 pairs); snipe Gallinago gallinago (160 pairs); stonechat Saxicola torquata (up to 430 pairs); and redstart Phoenicurus phoenicurus (400+ pairs).

In addition to its importance for the individual species listed above, the site is of exceptional scientific interest for its assemblage of lowland heathland breeding birds. These include nightjar, woodlark, Dartford warbler and stonechat.

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