



Appendix B

International Sites: Detailed Information

Name	Designation	Unitary authority area	Site area (ha) ⁱ	Qualifying Interest Features	Vulnerability ⁱⁱ
SACs					
Butser Hill	SAC	Hampshire	239	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) <i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of the British Isles (Priority feature) 	The site is vulnerable to spray-drift (i.e. eutrophication) from surrounding intensively-managed arable land. The site falls within the South Downs Environmentally Sensitive Area (and the Environmental Stewardship scheme that replaces it) and Natural England cooperates with other bodies to encourage adjacent landowners to enter the scheme, which supports less intensive agricultural regimes.
Dorset Heaths	SAC	Dorset	2,222	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Embryonic shifting dunes Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ('white dunes') Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (<i>Calluno-Ullicetea</i>) (Priority feature) Humid dune slacks Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>) Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> Temperate Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica ciliaris</i> and <i>Erica tetralix</i> (Priority feature) European dry heaths Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion 	<p>The Dorset heathlands have become a fragmented heathland area through extensive losses to agriculture, forestry and urban development. In recent years these land-use changes have been almost halted through changes in national and local policy. However, the scale of previous fragmentation and development has left a number of adverse pressures and many heaths in or near urban areas suffer recreational pressure and a high incidence of wildfires, and are sometimes also disturbed by infrastructure works.</p> <p>The heaths are affected by several old mineral extraction permissions, some still active. These will require review under the Habitats Regulations to ensure no adverse effect on integrity. Agreement has already been reached on drawing back the possible working of some permissions. In</p>

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bog woodland • Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) • Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> (Priority feature) • Alkaline fens • Old acidophilous oak woods with <i>Quercus robur</i> on sandy plains • Southern damselfly <i>Coenagrion mercuriale</i> • Great crested newt <i>Triturus cristatus</i> 	<p>and around the urban areas there are now well-established initiatives to manage and contain recreation uses and to more effectively control the occurrence and spread of fires.</p> <p>The decline in use for traditional agriculture has resulted in a successional trend to scrub and woodland together with invasion by conifer and introduced scrub species, especially Rhododendron. Financial support schemes and management initiatives, which aid the removal of scrub and encourage the re-establishment of traditional management in the form of extensive grazing, now cover much of the heath area.</p> <p>About 43% of the site is now held as NNRs, LNRs and non-statutory nature reserves.</p> <p>Fragmentation has increased edge and patch size effects on the heathland ecology. This is being addressed through recreation projects to expand and link heath fragments by removing areas of conifer plantation and converting some agricultural land back to heathland.</p>
East Hampshire Hangers	SAC	Hampshire	570	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Asperulo-Fagetum</i> beech forests • <i>Tilio-Acerion</i> forests of slopes, screes and ravines (Priority feature) • Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-</i> 	<p>Being steep and narrow, the Hanger woodlands are vulnerable to nutrient run-off from adjacent agricultural land, leading to eutrophication and growth of ruderal vegetation when, for example, neglected coppice is cut. Within the Hangers over-maturity and outbreaks of beech</p>

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				<p><i>Brometalia</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of the British Isles (Priority feature) • Early gentian <i>Gentianella anglica</i> 	disease have been observed. Management is hampered by sparse mast years, few seed trees, the presence of deep litter layers and difficulties in extracting felled timber due to the steep slopes present.
Emer Bog	SAC	Hampshire	37.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transition mires and quaking bogs 	<p>The principal threat to this site is considered to be adjacent land-use, which affects the hydrological processes acting on the mire. This also includes nutrient-enrichment and potential development.</p> <p>Natural England is exploring mechanisms that can be put in place to curtail damaging agricultural activities in the vicinity of the site. The mire is managed as a nature reserve and the site's importance has been raised through the Local Plan process to ensure that impacts of development proposals are fully considered.</p>
Mottisfont Bats	SAC	Hampshire	197	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barbastelle bats <i>Barbastella barbastellus</i> 	<p>Approximately 70% of the site is owned by the National Trust and is open to public access. The National Trust has actively carried out woodland operations over recent years, including opening up coppice coupes, the gradual removal of conifer plantations and replanting to native broadleaved woodland. The National Trust has recently renewed the Woodland Grant Scheme which is targeted at restoration and general woodland management which should enhance the habitats and ensure future sustainability. 25% of the site</p>

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					is privately owned and not open to public access. The majority of this area is also subject to a recently-approved Woodland Grant Scheme renewal which is targeted primarily at maintaining the rotational coppicing programme which should also ensure sustainability of woodland management. This part of the site is managed for rearing game birds with pest-control carried out, in particular for deer and grey squirrel <i>Sciurus carolinensis</i> .
River Avon	SAC	Dorset, Hampshire, Wiltshire	498	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation • Desmoulin's whorl snail <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i> • Brook lamprey <i>Lampetra planeri</i> • Sea lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> • Atlantic salmon <i>Salmo salar</i> • Bullhead <i>Cottus gobio</i> 	<p>The main factors influencing the river system are: historical modifications for mills, water meadows and more recently land drainage; land use in the catchment, abstraction of water for public supply and agricultural uses, disposal of sewage effluents and management of the water courses for fishery, agricultural and other uses.</p> <p>Currently much of the system is considered to be at risk from reduced flows, elevated nutrient levels and changes to sediment processes resulting from previous channel modifications.</p> <p>Full restoration of the conservation status of the qualifying features will be a long-term process addressing major land use activities on a catchment scale through Local Environment Action Plans, Catchment Abstraction Plans and Water Level Management Plans as well as through</p>

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					<p>management agreements with landowners/occupiers. Research is required to develop a fuller understanding of the relationships between the influential factors and the qualifying features in order to effectively address the key issues. A LIFE UK Rivers project has been started (1999) to enhance understanding and trial remedial treatments.</p> <p>Reviews of abstraction licences and discharge consents under the Habitats Regulations will help to address some of the water quality and quantity issues. Several projects are being undertaken to address these issues, including modification of abstraction and discharges through the 1999 UK Water Company Price Review, and a Landcare Project to address diffuse pollution issues.</p>
River Itchen	SAC	City of Southampton , Hampshire	309	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation • Southern damselfly <i>Coenagrion mercuriale</i> • Bullhead (<i>Cottus gobio</i>) • White Clawed Crayfish (<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>) • Brook lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>) • Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) • Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) 	<p>A principal threat to the habitats within this SAC is considered to be the decrease in flow velocities and increase in siltation, in turn affecting macrophyte cover (especially <i>Ranunculus</i>). Recent surveys have shown declines in <i>Ranunculus</i> cover since 1990, attributable to increased abstractions in the upper catchment, coupled with a series of years with below-average rainfall. Low flows interact with nutrient inputs from point sources to produce localised increases in filamentous algae and nutrient-tolerant macrophytes at the expense of <i>Ranunculus</i>. The Environment Agency is initiating a</p>

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					major study of the river's macrophytes, from which a predictive model will be developed which will aid decisions on whether to reduce water abstraction at critical times. Efforts are currently being made to increase the viability of the southern damselfly population through population studies and a Species Action Plan.
Salisbury Plain	SAC	Hampshire, Wiltshire	21438	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands • Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) • Marsh fritillary butterfly <i>Euphydryas</i> (<i>Eurodryas</i>, <i>Hypodryas</i>) <i>aurinia</i> 	<p>This site comprises three landholdings: a military training area, a military research area and a National Nature Reserve. The interests of all three sites require low intensity grazing which on the military areas has occurred as a by-product of military use over many years and on the NNR has been maintained through traditional farm management. Lack of management is a problem in some places on the training area, and the decline in the UK livestock industry has implications for all three areas, such that future grazing management may require increased financial support.</p> <p>Changes in military use, particularly use of increased numbers of vehicles and construction of roads and tracks to accommodate those vehicles have the potential to damage the qualifying interests, but are subject to prior assessment and are being strategically addressed through an integrated land management plan. The land that is subject to purely agricultural use is managed sympathetically through a</p>

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					National Nature Reserve management plan.
Shortheath Common	SAC	Hampshire	59	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transition mires and quaking bogs • European dry heaths • Bog woodland (priority feature) 	The site is vulnerable to encroachment of invasive scrub and trees due to cessation of traditional grazing management. A Wildlife Enhancement Scheme agreement has been entered into in an attempt to address the ecological deterioration.
Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons	SAC	City of Portsmouth, Hampshire, Isle of Wight	36	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal lagoons (priority feature) 	<p>Various factors affect, or potentially threaten, the Solent Lagoons SAC. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - water quality due to industrial waste disposal/landfill/discharges and diffuse pollution occurring off the site; - the effects of sea-level rise; coastal defence. - water level management/slucice maintenance. <p>These issues are being addressed through a number of mechanisms including the review of consents procedure under the Habitats Regulations, Biodiversity Action Plans, other coastal strategies, Water Level Management Plans and management agreements. All future developments will be assessed for any adverse effects on integrity under the Habitats Regulations.</p>
Solent Maritime	SAC	Hampshire: 45% Isle of Wight: 5% Marine: 29%	11,326	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estuaries • Spartina swards (<i>Spartinion maritima</i>) • Atlantic Salt Meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) • Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea 	<p>The following factors affect or potentially threaten the Solent Maritime SAC: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • existing and proposed flood defence and coast protection works; • coastal squeeze of intertidal habitats due to coastal

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		West Sussex: 21%		<p>water all the time</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide • Coastal lagoons (Priority feature) • Annual vegetation of drift lines • Perennial vegetation of stony banks • Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand • Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ('white dunes') 	<p>erosion/ sea level rise and sea-walls/ development in the hinterland;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • developments pressures including ports, marinas, jetties etc. Proposals often involve capital/ maintenance dredging to provide/ improve deep water access, and land-claim of coastal habitats; • potential accidental pollution from shipping, oil/chemical spills, heavy industrial activities, former waste disposal sites and waste-water discharge; • introduction of non-native species e.g. from shipping activity. <p>These issues are being addressed through a number of mechanisms including the review of consents procedure under the Habitats Regulations, the Management Scheme for European Marine Sites, Biodiversity Action Plans, other coastal strategies, management plans and management agreements.</p> <p>All future developments will be assessed for adverse effects on integrity under the Habitats Regulations.</p>
The New Forest	SAC	Hampshire – 99%, Wiltshire – 1%	29262	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>) • Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea</i> 	<p>Issues that affect habitat condition are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drainage of wetland habitats for improved grazing and forestry • Afforestation of heathland habitats with conifers and other non-native species

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>uniflorae</i> and/or of the <i>Isoëto-Nanojuncetea</i> • Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> • European dry heaths • Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) • Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion • Atlantic acidophilous beech forests with <i>Ilex</i> and sometimes also <i>Taxus</i> in the shrublayer (<i>Quercion robori-petraeae</i> or <i>Ilici-Fagenion</i>) • Asperulo-Fagetum beech forests • Old acidophilous oak woods with <i>Quercus robur</i> on sandy plains • Bog woodland (priority feature) • Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>) (priority feature) • Transition mires and quaking bogs • Alkaline fens • Southern damselfly <i>Coenagrion mercuriale</i> • Stag beetle <i>Lucanus cervus</i> • Great Crested Newt <i>Triturus cristatus</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essential grazing by commoners' animals is vulnerable to current economic trends • Increased recreational pressures.
Woolmer Forest	SAC	Hampshire	667	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds • European dry heaths 	The site is vulnerable to neglect (encroachment of invasive scrub and trees due to cessation of traditional grazing

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> • Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> • Transition mires and quaking bogs 	management) and vulnerable to military activities. Wildlife Enhancement Scheme agreements are being used in an attempt to address ecological deterioration.
SPA and Ramsar sites					
Avon Valley	SPA	Dorset – 31.09% Hampshire - 66.07%	1385	<p>Article 4.1 Qualification (79/409/EEC) Over winter the area regularly supports: <i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i> (Western Siberia/North-eastern & North-western Europe)</p> <p>Article 4.2 Qualification (79/409/EEC) Over winter the area regularly supports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Anas strepera</i> (North-western Europe) 	Problems with retaining floodwater can lead to drying out of the site in summer, affecting breeding waders, flora and invertebrate fauna. This issue is being addressed through management agreements, site management statements, water level management plans and Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) agreements. The site is also vulnerable due to water abstraction. Such abstraction within the vicinity of the site will be reviewed under the provisions of the Habitat Regulations.
Avon Valley	Ramsar	Dorset – 31.09% Hampshire - 66.07%	1385	<p>Ramsar criterion 1 The site shows a greater range of habitats than any other chalk river in Britain, including fen, mire, lowland wet grassland and small areas of woodland.</p> <p>Ramsar criterion 2 The site supports a diverse assemblage of wetland flora and fauna including several nationally-rare species.</p>	<p>Factors adversely affecting the site’s ecological character, including changes in land (including water) use and development projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance to vegetation through cutting / clearing • Vegetation succession • Drainage/land-claim for agriculture • Sedimentation/siltation • Introduction/invasion of non-native plant species • Pollution – domestic sewage

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				<p>Ramsar criterion 6 – species/populations occurring at levels of international importance.</p> <p>Qualifying Species/populations (as identified at designation): Species with peak counts in winter: Gadwall , <i>Anas strepera strepera</i>, NW Europe</p> <p>Species/populations identified subsequent to designation for possible future consideration under criterion 6. Species with peak counts in winter: Northern pintail , <i>Anas acuta</i>, NW Europe</p> <p>Black-tailed godwit , <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>, Iceland/W Europe</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pollution – agricultural fertilisers • Recreational/tourism disturbance (unspecified) • Reservoir/barrage/dam impact: flow regime
Chichester and Langstone Harbours	SPA	Hampshire - 54% West Sussex - 46%	5810	<p>Article 4.1 Qualification (79/409/EEC)</p> <p>During the breeding season the area regularly supports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Sterna albifrons</i> (Eastern Atlantic - breeding) • <i>Sterna hirundo</i> (Northern/Eastern Europe - 	<p>The SPA comprises two large, sheltered estuarine basins on the central south coast of England. Langstone Harbour is fringed by urban and industrial development, whereas Chichester is surrounded mainly by high grade farmland. The site is subjected to significant recreational pressures, especially during summer months.</p>

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				<p>breeding)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i> (Western Europe/Western Africa) <p>Over winter the area regularly supports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Limosa lapponica</i> (Western Palearctic - wintering) <p>Article 4.2 Qualification (79/409/EEC)</p> <p>Over winter the area regularly supports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Anas acuta</i> (North-western Europe) • <i>Anas clypeata</i> (North-western/Central Europe) • <i>Anas crecca</i> (North-western Europe) • <i>Anas Penelope</i> (Western Siberia/North-western/North-eastern Europe) • <i>Arenaria interpres</i> (Western Palearctic - wintering) • <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i> (Western Siberia/Western Europe) • <i>Calidris alba</i> (Eastern Atlantic/Western & Southern Africa - wintering) • <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i> (Northern Siberia/Europe/Western Africa) 	<p>Effluent discharges and agricultural run-off can lead to localised eutrophication problems although recent studies carried out by the Environmental Agency have shown that elevated nutrient levels are maintained by inputs from coastal waters.</p> <p>Sea-level rise and 'coastal squeeze' are significant threats to the long-term maintenance of habitat diversity and structural integrity. Incremental loss of fringing habitats and transitional communities is a threat as hard coastal defences are maintained by riparian land-owners. A strategy for managing sea defences, incorporating set-back, is currently being prepared by the Environment Agency (EA). Impact on the site from water abstraction is being investigated by the EA.</p> <p>Both harbours are managed by statutory bodies whose remits include conservation of the natural environment. Conservation bodies have an advisory input to the management of the harbours, and play an active role in the management of numerous Local Authority and RSPB nature reserves around the site. Additional measures for safeguarding the nature conservation interests of the harbours including measures to address effects of recreational activity are expected to be applied via the</p>

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> (Europe/Northern Africa - wintering) • <i>Mergus serrator</i> (North-western/Central Europe) • <i>Numenius arquata</i> (Europe - breeding) • <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> (Eastern Atlantic - wintering) • <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> (North-western Europe) • <i>Tringa tetanus</i> (Eastern Atlantic - wintering) <p>Article 4.2 Qualification (79/409/EEC): An internationally important assemblage of birds Over winter the area regularly supports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 93230 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 01/04/1998), including: <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i> , <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> , <i>Anas penelope</i> , <i>Anas crecca</i> , <i>Anas acuta</i> , <i>Anas clypeata</i> , <i>Mergus serrator</i> , <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> , <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> , <i>Calidris alba</i> , <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i> , <i>Limosa lapponica</i> , <i>Numenius arquata</i> , <i>Tringa totanus</i> , <i>Arenaria interpres</i>. 	Management Scheme for the Solent Maritime SAC.
Chichester and	Ramsar	Hampshire - 54%	5,810	Ramsar criterion 1	Factors adversely affecting the site's ecological character,

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Langstone Harbours		West Sussex - 46%		<p>Two large estuarine basins linked by the channel which divides Hayling Island from the main Hampshire coastline. The site includes intertidal mudflats, saltmarsh, sand and shingle spits and sand dunes.</p> <p>Ramsar criterion 5</p> <p>Assemblages of international importance:</p> <p>Species with peak counts in winter:</p> <p>76480 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1998/99-2002/2003)</p> <p>Ramsar criterion 6 – species/populations occurring at levels of international importance.</p> <p>Qualifying Species/populations (as identified at designation):</p> <p>Species with peak counts in spring/autumn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ringed plover , <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>, Europe/Northwest Africa • Black-tailed godwit , <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i> 	<p>including changes in land (including water) use and development projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erosion • Eutrophication • Pollution – domestic sewage

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common redshank , <i>Tringa totanus totanus</i> <p>Species with peak counts in winter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dark-bellied brent goose, <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i> • Common shelduck , <i>Tadorna tadorna</i>, NW Europe • Grey plover , <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>, E Atlantic/W Africa –wintering • Dunlin , <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i> <p>Species/populations identified subsequent to designation for possible future consideration under criterion 6.</p> <p>Species regularly supported during the breeding season:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little tern , <i>Sterna albifrons albifrons</i>, W Europe 	
New Forest	SPA	Hampshire - 99%, Wiltshire - 1%	28003	<p>Article 4.1 Qualification (79/409/EEC) During the breeding season the area regularly supports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i> 	The site is subject to recreational pressure. Recreational pressures and disturbance has been shown to adversely affect populations of woodlark elsewhere. However, the population in the New Forest is currently at a high level.

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Lullula arborea</i> • <i>Pernis apivorus</i> • <i>Sylvia undata</i> <p>Over winter the area regularly supports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Circus cyaneus</i> <p>Article 4.2 Qualification (79/409/EEC) During the breeding season the area regularly supports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Falco subbuteo</i>. • <i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i> 	<p>Good habitat management is also relevant for maintaining populations of woodlark and Dartford warbler and this is achieved through the grazing, cutting and burning of gorse and heather to provide a diverse age structure and prevent succession to woodland.</p> <p>A recent decline in waders; redshank, lapwing, curlew and snipe may in part be due to the effects of walkers and particularly those with dogs, as well as low water levels affecting the wetland habitats. Most of the valley mires in the Forest have been damaged in the past by drainage which has caused drying out of the peat layers.</p> <p>Prevention of further erosion has already been tackled on some sites but a more extensive programme of infilling drainage ditches is currently being discussed with the landowners and commoners. The work to restore valley mires systems is expected to influence these bird populations in time. Steps are being taken to deal with recreational pressures. The Forestry Commission is carrying out an exercise to educate the dogwalking public during the nesting season. Further monitoring and research on the effects that recreational pressures have on ground-nesting birds is considered essential.</p>
New Forest	Ramsar	Hampshire -	28003	Ramsar criterion 1:	Factors adversely affecting the site's ecological character,

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		99%, Wiltshire - 1%		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Valley mires and wet heaths are found throughout the site and are of outstanding scientific interest. The mires and heaths are within catchments whose uncultivated and undeveloped state buffer the mires against adverse ecological change. This is the largest concentration of intact valley mires of their type in Britain. <p>Ramsar criterion 2: The site supports a diverse assemblage of wetland plants and animals including several nationally rare species. Seven species of nationally rare plant are found on the site, as are at least 65 British Red Data Book species of invertebrate.</p> <p>Ramsar criterion 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The mire habitats are of high ecological quality and diversity and have undisturbed transition zones. The invertebrate fauna of the site is important due to the concentration of rare and scarce wetland species. The whole site complex, with its examples of semi-natural habitats is essential to the genetic and ecological diversity of southern England. 	<p>including changes in land (including water) use and development projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commercial-scale forest exploitation Drainage/ land claim (unspecified) Introduction/ invasion of non-native plant species Recreational/ tourism disturbance (unspecified)

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Porton Down	SPA	Hampshire – 34.49%, Wiltshire – 65.51%	1562	<p>Article 4.1 Qualification (79/409/EEC)</p> <p>During the breeding season the area regularly supports:</p> <p><i>Burbinus oedicnemus</i> (Western Europe - breeding)</p>	<p>The site forms the ranges of the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory which is an agency of the Ministry of Defence, and military training activities take place. The SPA interest is dependant on the chalk grassland habitat, which is a SAC in its own right. On the whole, the existing land use is compatible with maintaining the SPA interest and the habitat is generally robust to ground disturbance, provided this is kept to an acceptable level. During the Salisbury Plain LIFE Natura Project a significant proportion of scrub was managed and now an ongoing scrub management programme continues, albeit at a lower level, to prevent significant loss of grassland to scrub. Management and operational issues continue to be dealt with through a working Integrated Land Management Plan and a generic consent which is periodically reviewed. Consent is issued by Natural England on a case by case basis for operations/ management outside the scope of the generic consent.</p>
Portsmouth Harbour	SPA	Hampshire	1249	<p>Article 4.2 Qualification (79/409/EEC):</p> <p>Over winter the area regularly supports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i> (Western Siberia/Western Europe) • <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i> (Northern Siberia/Europe/Western Africa) • <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i> (Iceland - breeding) 	<p>Portsmouth Harbour is vulnerable to the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modification of physical processes through large-scale land-claim, capital and maintenance dredging, sea defences and the knock on effects on the extent and distribution of intertidal habitats; • Sea Level Rise and issues related to Coastal Squeeze • Maintenance and development of both commercial and

Name	Designation	Unitary authority area	Site area (ha) ⁱ	Qualifying Interest Features	Vulnerability ⁱⁱ
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Mergus serrator</i> (North-western/Central Europe) 	<p>military ports;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accidental pollution from shipping and heavy industrial activities, former military and waste disposal sites, re-distribution of contaminated sediments. High levels of recreational pressure both on shore and offshore which can have disturbance effects during sensitive (over-wintering) periods. <p>The Portsmouth Harbour Plan (non-statutory) aims to address many of these issues. Others will be dealt with through on-going casework, joint projects with outside organisations e.g. Intertidal Sediment Recharge, monitoring of saltmarsh erosion and Site Management Statements. Other more strategic issues will be addressed through the proposed Management Scheme covering European Marine Sites within the Solent complex of estuaries.</p>
Portsmouth Harbour	Ramsar	Hampshire	1,249	<p>Justification for the application of each Criterion</p> <p>Ramsar criterion 3:</p> <p>The intertidal mudflat areas possess extensive beds of eelgrass <i>Zostera angustifolia</i> and <i>Zostera noltei</i> which support the grazing dark-bellied brent geese populations. The mud-snail <i>Hydrobia ulvae</i> is found at extremely high densities, which helps to support the wading</p>	<p>Factors adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land (including water) use and development projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eutrophication Unspecified development: urban use (Disturbance and land-take pressures (on and off-site) from urban and industrial development Coastal engineering, e.g. construction of sea defences (coastal squeeze arising from coastal defences)

Name	Designation	Unitary authority area	Site area (ha) ⁱ	Qualifying Interest Features	Vulnerability ⁱⁱ
				<p>bird interest of the site. Common cord-grass <i>Spartina anglica</i> dominates large areas of the saltmarsh and there are also extensive areas of green algae <i>Enteromorpha</i> spp. and sea lettuce <i>Ulva lactuca</i>. More locally the saltmarsh is dominated by sea purslane <i>Halimione portulacoides</i> which gradates to more varied communities at the higher shore levels. The site also includes a number of saline lagoons hosting nationally important species.</p> <p>Ramsar criterion 6 – species/populations occurring at levels of international importance.</p> <p>Qualifying Species/populations (as identified at designation):</p> <p>Species with peak counts in winter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dark-bellied brent goose, <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i> 	
Solent and Southampton Water	SPA	Hampshire: 69% Isle of Wight: 31%	5506	<p>Article 4.1 Qualification (79/409/EEC)</p> <p>During the breeding season the area regularly supports:</p>	<p>A number of key factors affect the Solent and Southampton Water SPA; these can be summarised as follows:</p> <p>1) Previous flood and coastal defence works, land-claim and dredging operations have modified physical processes</p>

Name	Designation	Unitary authority area	Site area (ha) ⁱ	Qualifying Interest Features	Vulnerability ⁱⁱ
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Larus melanocephalus</i> • <i>Sterna albifrons</i> (Eastern Atlantic - breeding) • <i>Sterna dougallii</i> (Europe - breeding) • <i>Sterna hirundo</i> (Northern/Eastern Europe - breeding) • <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i> (Western Europe/Western Africa) <p>Article 4.2 Qualification (79/409/EEC)</p> <p>Over winter the area regularly supports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Anas crecca</i> (North-western Europe) • <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i> (Western Siberia/Western Europe) • <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> (Europe/Northern Africa - wintering) • <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i> (Iceland - breeding) <p>Article 4.2 Qualification (79/409/EEC): An internationally important assemblage of birds</p> <p>Over winter the area regularly supports:</p> <p>51361 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 01/10/1998)</p> <p>Including:</p>	<p>and sediment transfer patterns which can have a knock-on effect on the extent and distribution of intertidal habitats.</p> <p>2) Sea level rise and issues related to coastal squeeze.</p> <p>3) Potential for accidental pollution from shipping, heavy industrial activities and former waste disposal sites, as well as ongoing impacts from wastewater discharge.</p> <p>4) High levels of pressure both on shore and at sea from recreational and commercial interests, in what is a busy developed area. These issues are dealt with through site management statements and joint projects with outside organisations e.g. intertidal sediment recharge, monitoring of saltmarsh erosion or through the relevant planning/ review provisions of the Habitat Regulations. Other more strategic issues are being addressed locally through such initiatives as Shoreline Management Plans, Estuarine Management Plans and eventually through the Management Scheme which will cover the European Marine Sites including the Solent and Southampton</p>

Name	Designation	Unitary authority area	Site area (ha) ⁱ	Qualifying Interest Features	Vulnerability ⁱⁱ
				<i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i> , <i>Anas crecca</i> , <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> , <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i> .	
Solent and Southampton Water	Ramsar	City of Portsmouth; City of Southampton ; Hampshire; Isle of Wight	5346	<p>Ramsar criterion 1</p> <p>The site is one of the few major sheltered channels between a substantial island and mainland in European waters, exhibiting an unusual strong double tidal flow and has long periods of slack water at high and low tide. It includes many wetland habitats characteristic of the biogeographic region: saline lagoons, saltmarshes, estuaries, intertidal flats, shallow coastal waters, grazing marshes, reedbeds, coastal woodland and rocky boulder reefs.</p> <p>Ramsar criterion 2</p> <p>The site supports an important assemblage of rare plants and invertebrates. At least 33 British Red Data Book invertebrates and at least eight British Red Data Book plants are represented on site.</p> <p>Ramsar criterion 5</p>	<p>Factors adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land (including water) use and development projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erosion. <p>Measures to counter erosion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal Defence Strategies • Regulation of private coastal defences • Shoreline Management Plans • Coastal Habitat Management Plans (ChAMPS)

Name	Designation	Unitary authority area	Site area (ha) ⁱ	Qualifying Interest Features	Vulnerability ⁱⁱ
				<p>Assemblages of international importance:</p> <p>Species with peak counts in winter:</p> <p>51343 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1998/99-2002/2003)</p> <p>Ramsar criterion 6 (species/populations occurring at levels of international importance).</p> <p>Qualifying Species/populations (as identified at designation):</p> <p>Species with peak counts in spring/autumn:</p> <p>Ringed plover , <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>, Europe/Northwest Africa</p> <p>Species with peak counts in winter:</p> <p>Dark-bellied brent goose, <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i></p> <p>Eurasian teal , <i>Anas crecca</i>, NW Europe</p> <p>Black-tailed godwit , <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>, Iceland/W Europe</p>	
Thames	SPA	Berkshire –	8275	Article 4.1 Qualification (79/409/EEC)	The mosaic of habitats which form the internationally

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Basin Heaths		16.10%, Hampshire – 30.65%, Surrey – 53.25%		<p>During the breeding season the area regularly supports:</p> <p><i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i> <i>Lullula arborea</i> <i>Sylvia undata</i></p>	<p>important lowland heathland are dependent on active heathland management. Lack of grazing and other traditional management practices therefore pose a threat. Traditional management is being implemented through schemes such as Countryside Stewardship and Wildlife Enhancement Scheme. Development pressure on neighbouring land and the cumulative and indirect effects of neighbouring developments also pose a potential long-term problem. Housing developments are particularly relevant in this part of south-east England. This has been addressed through Natural England commenting on planning applications and providing input to structural and local plans. A strategic approach to accommodating development whilst ensuring compatibility with the Habitats Regulations is being addressed through the Thames Basin Heaths Area Based Delivery Project. Tenure is a mixture of public bodies, private landowners, local authorities and non-governmental organisations. The Ministry of Defence are significant landowners/managers. At present the MoD land is used principally for firing ranges and military exercises (predominantly on foot). A significant proportion of the site is local authority-owned land. The local authority land is often designated as Public Open Space and is heavily used for informal recreation. For the smaller private ownerships, conservation management</p>

Name	Designation	Unitary authority area	Site area (ha) ⁱ	Qualifying Interest Features	Vulnerability ⁱⁱ
					has been addressed through the Site Management Statement process.
Wealden Heaths Phase 2	SPA	Hampshire – 85%, Surrey – 14%, West Sussex – 1%	2054	<p>Article 4.1 Qualification (79/409/EEC) During the breeding season the area regularly supports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i> • <i>Lullula arborea</i> • <i>Sylvia undata</i> 	<p>The heathland habitats of the Special Protection Area are very dependent upon grazing and other traditional management practices. In the absence of a functional commoning system the re-establishment of successful grazing management is dependent on the involvement of county-based Heathland Management Projects. Experimental grazing trials have been established at Woolmer Forest. The SPA is vulnerable to heathland fires and there is increasing pressure for development associated with military training activities. This and the problems caused by formal and informal recreation activities (e.g. mountain biking, orienteering, car and motorcycle events) that are a potential threat to the breeding success of the Annex 1 birds are being addressed by improved liaison and annual consultation meetings with the Ministry of Defence and through management plans on National Trust land.</p>

ⁱ Numbers rounded up to nearest whole number.

ⁱⁱ Source: Natura 2000 Standard Data Forms – Joint Nature Conservation Committee [JNCC]).