

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

**Name:** Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1)

**Unitary Authority/County:** Barnsley, Cheshire, Derbyshire, Kirklees, Oldham, Sheffield, Staffordshire, and Tameside.

**Consultation proposal:** Addition of Eastern Peak District Moors Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) to the Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA because of the site's European ornithological importance. The extended area of the SPA comprises the following Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI): Dark Peak SSSI, Eastern Peak District Moors SSSI, Goyt Valley SSSI and Leek Moors SSSI. For detail of SPA boundary, see map.

**Site description:** The site is an extensive tract of moorland and moorland-fringe habitat. It includes most of the unenclosed moorland areas of the north, eastern and south-western Peak District, where it also extends into enclosed farmland of wet rushy pasture, hay meadows and small wetlands in the valley bottoms. The moorland habitats include extensive tracts of blanket bog and dry heath, which together with wet heath, acid grassland, small flushes, gritstone edges and boulder slopes, streams and moorland reservoirs, fringing semi-natural woodland and enclosed farmland, represents the full range of upland vegetation characteristic of the South Pennines. The site supports several important species assemblages, including higher plants, lower plants and insects, as well as breeding birds. Many physical features are of geological interest.

**Size of SPA:** The SPA covers an area of 45,270.52 ha.

**Qualifying species:** The site qualifies under **article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) as it is used regularly by 1% or more of the Great Britain population of a species listed in Annex I, in any season:

Annex I species	Estimated population & season	Period	% GB pop.
Merlin <i>Falco columbarius</i>	30 - 36 pairs - breeding	1990/1998	2.3 - 2.8%
Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	435 - 445 pairs - breeding	1990/1998	1.9 - 2.0%
Short-eared Owl <i>Asio flammeus</i>	22 - 25 pairs - breeding	1990/1998	2.2 - 2.5%

**Non-qualifying species of interest:** The site supports a rich upland breeding bird assemblage which, as well as the qualifying species listed above, includes important numbers of Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*, Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, Dunlin *Calidris alpina schinzii*, Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*, Curlew *Numenius arquata*, Redshank *Tringa totanus*, Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*, Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*, Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*, Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus* and Twite *Carduelis flavirostris*.

### Status of SPA

- i) South Pennine Moors Phase 1 (Dark Peak SSSI, Goyt Valley SSSI and Leek Moors SSSI), covering 37,092.76 ha, was classified as a Special Protection Area on 29 March 1996.
- ii) Consultations commenced on 22 December 1999 on the proposal to extend South Pennine Moors Phase 1 SPA to encompass Eastern Peak District Moors SSSI (8,177.76 ha).
- iii) On 30 November 2000, the extended area of Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA was classified as a Special Protection Area and this citation now supersedes that relating to the area classified on 29 March 1996.