



Appropriate Assessment
of
Ashford Borough Council's Tenterden and
Rural Sites DPD
Regulation 27 Publication Version

June 2009

Background

Ashford Borough Council is in the process of preparing a Local Development Framework (LDF). The Core Strategy was adopted in July 2008. The Tenterden and Rural Sites DPD forms part of a series of DPDs which set out more detailed policies covering separate parts of the Borough.

Under Regulation 48 of the 'Habitats Regulations 1994' an Appropriate Assessment is required to test whether a DPD is likely to have an adverse impact on the integrity of any Natura 2000 sites. An Appropriate Assessment must be carried out on the DPD under article 6 of the Habitats Directive and Schedule 1 of the Conservation Regulations and in line with the Appropriate Assessment Guidance (20061). The Appropriate Assessment considers the effects of the plan on the integrity of sites which are designated at European level as being of exceptional importance in respect of rare, endangered or vulnerable natural habitats and species. It has been carried out, in consultation with Natural England (NE).

Natura 2000 sites are of exceptional importance in respect of rare, endangered or vulnerable habitats and species within the European Community. These sites are also referred to as European sites and, of relevance to this DPD, comprise Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs).

An Appropriate Assessment has been carried out for the South East Plan (final version April 2009) and the Ashford Borough Core Strategy (April 2007), and provides a relevant background to this Assessment.

This Appropriate Assessment fulfils South East Plan Policy NRM5: CONSERVATION AND IMPROVEMENT OF BIODIVERSITY which states:

Where a likely significant effect of a plan or project on European sites cannot be excluded, an appropriate assessment in line with the Habitats Directive and associated regulations will be required.

The Core Strategy concluded that there would be no negative effects on the integrity of the Natura 2000 sites by reason of the mitigation measures in the DPD. Nevertheless, in line with good practice, the Council has completed a screening exercise of the Tenterden & Rural Sites DPD to test the effects of detailed policies included in the plan.

The first stage of an Appropriate Assessment is to determine whether the plan, either alone or in combination with other relevant projects and plans, is likely to result in a significant effect upon European Sites. A full Appropriate Assessment was necessary as the Tenterden & Rural Sites DPD, alone, and in combination with other plans and projects (as detailed in the AA of the RSS), was deemed likely to have a significant effect on the Wye and Crundale Downs Special Area of Conservation (SAC) Stodmarsh SAC and Special Protection Area.

The relevant European sites are identified together with their reasons for designation, condition and vulnerability. The individual policies of the Tenterden and Rural Sites DPD have been considered in association with the cumulative effects of other plans and any potential effects on the European sites identified. Taking into account mitigating effects in the Core Strategy and this DPD, conclusions have been reached as to whether any significant effects are likely to result from the DPD either individually or in combination with other plans and projects.

Identification of Relevant Sites

The Appropriate Assessment for the Core Strategy detailed how that DPD would be likely to have a significant effect on the Wye and Crundale Downs SAC, Stodmarsh SAC and SPA as summarised below:

Potential adverse effects on European Sites from the South East Plan

	Risk of effects from increased recreational pressure	Risk of effects from region-wide air pollution	Risk of effects from water abstraction	Risk of effects from WWTW8 and landfill discharges
Wye and Crundale Downs SAC	X	X		
Stodmarsh SAC			X	X
Stodmarsh SPA		X	X	

The Wye and Crundale Downs SAC is located in the Borough and within the area covered by the Tenterden and Rural Sites DPD.

The Tenterden and Rural Sites DPD has been prepared in the context of the South East Plan which sets the framework for development throughout the South East. In addition to targets for housing development, economic and infrastructure policies within each local authority area, the Plan incorporates policies to protect and encourage enhancement of natural resources including the water environment, air quality, biodiversity and woodlands. An Appropriate Assessment of the South East Plan was carried out which assessed its likely impact on European Sites within and beyond the South East Region.

Locally, the Ashford Borough Core Strategy adopted in July 2008 sets out the broad distribution of development and over-arching planning policies for the Borough. Core Strategy Policy CS2 indicates that provision should be made for development of about 16,770 new dwellings and about 16,700 additional jobs by 2021 with the area outside Ashford covered in the Tenterden and Rural Sites DPD accommodating 1180 new dwellings subject to any amendments made in that DPD. Policy CS6 states that housing site allocations will need more detailed assessment but would be made through the Tenterden and Rural Sites DPD in the following broad distribution:

	Phase 1 (2006 – 2013)	Phase 2 (2014 – 2021)
Tenterden	220	280
Charing	50	60
Hamstreet	50	60
Wye	50	60
Tier 3 settlements	80	90
Totals	450	550

The Tenterden and Rural Sites DPD – Publication Document sets out the proposed distribution of development based on this more detailed assessment as set out below.

	Phase 1 (2006 – 2016)	Phase 2 (2017 – 2021)
Tenterden	300	175
Charing	90	35
Hamstreet	50	20
Wye	45	-
Tier 3 settlements	110	40
Totals	595	270

The hierarchy will also be used as a basis for employment land allocations to be made in the Tenterden & Rural Sites DPD.

As the above shows, the levels of development proposed in the Tenterden & Rural Sites DPD are broadly consistent with the development set out in the 'parent' Core Strategy, particularly when the 139 recently completed dwellings are taken into account. For this reason, the conclusions from the Core Strategy Appropriate Assessment remain relevant.

The relatively limited number of dwellings allocated in the Tenterden & Rural Sites DPD is likely to reduce the significant effects of most potential impacts beyond the Wye and Crundale Downs SAC and the Stodmarsh SAC and SPA. Given the dispersed location of the development proposed in the DPD, the additional recreational pressure on a wider range of sites of European importance should be considered.

People from the rural part of Ashford Borough covered by the DPD are likely to make use of a wide-ranging catchment for recreational activities. A recent England Day Visits Survey⁷ indicates that people typically travel:

- 17.2 km to visit a countryside site for the day, and
- 18.1 km to visit a woodland site for the day
- 25.5 km to visit a coastal site for the day

In all cases, more journeys were made by car than on foot. These general trends help to indicate the likely impact of development within the rural part of the Borough covered by the DPD on the sites of European importance. As a broad assessment, the distance from the nearest development allocated in the Tenterden & Rural Sites DPD to the sites closest to the Borough has been measured.

Stodmarsh SAC and Stodmarsh SPA (countryside)	20 km from Wye
Folkestone to Etchinghill Escarpment SAC (countryside)	24km from Aldington
Parkgate Down SAC (countryside/woodland)	24 km from Chilham
Dungeness SAC (coastal)	17km from Hamstreet
The Blean Complex SAC (woodland)	12.5km from Chilham
Dungeness to Pett Level SPA (coastal)	17km from Hamstreet
The Swale SPA and the Swale Wetland (Ramsar Site) (coastal)	40 km from Chilham

None of the sites fall within the potential catchment area for recreational pressure likely to be caused by development allocated in the DPD. For this reason the assessment will focus on the impacts of the DPD on the Wye and Crundale Downs SAC and the Stodmarsh SAC and SPA.

⁷ Various. 2006. England Leisure Visits: the Results of the 2005 Survey. Countryside Agency

The Characteristics of the European sites and their Conservation Objectives

In order to determine whether the plan may impact on European sites it is essential to understand the environmental process that, if altered in some way, could potentially result in a significant adverse effect on the interest features of the European site and thereby, the achievement of the site's conservation objectives.

Information on the sites has been obtained from Natural England and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee. A description of the SACs together with the reasons for their designation, main features, conservation objectives and management issues is attached at Appendix 1.

Identification of Other Relevant Plans or Projects

The Tenterden and Rural Sites DPD has been prepared in the context of the South East Plan which sets the framework for development throughout the South East. In addition to transport and economic policies and targets for housing development within each local authority area, the Plan incorporates policies to protect and encourage enhancement of natural resources including the water environment, air quality, biodiversity and woodlands. An Appropriate Assessment of the South East Plan was carried out which assessed its likely impact on European Sites within and beyond the South East Region.

Locally, the Ashford Borough Core Strategy adopted in July 2008 sets out the broad distribution of development and over-arching planning policies for the Borough. Core Strategy Policy CS2 indicates that provision should be made for development of about 16,770 new dwellings and about 16,700 additional jobs by 2021 with the area outside Ashford covered in the Tenterden and Rural Sites DPD accommodating 1180 new dwellings subject to any amendments made in that DPD.

The most up to date source for this information is considered to be the adopted South East Plan (2009). Policy H1 'Regional Housing Provision' sets out the additional housing figures for the the cluster of districts closest to Ashford Borough, within the South East Area, between the period of 2006 – 2026:

Swale	10,800
Canterbury	10,200
Maidstone	11,080
Shepway	5,800
Tunbridge Wells	6,000
<u>Rother District Council (E Sussex)</u>	<u>5,600</u>
Total	49,480

The total number of dwellings being planned for in the locality, including those within Ashford Borough, is therefore 66,250 of which the element allocated in the Tenterden & Rural Sites DPD represents a minor proportion (1.5%).

Analysis of Potential Significant Effects of the Tenterden & Rural Sites DPD on the Relevant Sites

Wye and Crundale Downs SAC

The key findings of the Assessment into the Core Strategy identified that both recreational pressure and air pollution, resulting from the growth of Ashford have the potential to adversely affect the Wye and Crundale Downs SAC. The likely potential significant effects on the integrity of the European Sites were therefore considered to be

- A. Impacts from air pollution – from increased car use,
- B. Recreational impacts – from increased recreational pressure on the site

These are assessed in the table below.

Possible effect of the DPD	Is there a risk of significant effects?	Other trends, plans etc	In combination effects
Locally-specific development proposals include the allocation of two sites in Wye capable of accommodating a total of 45 dwellings prior to 2016 and the retention or expansion of the Imperial College Campus. Any expansion of the College is limited in terms of the level or type of traffic by policy. There is no specific transport or other infrastructure allocation but a financial contribution is required from the housing sites to maintain the public open space in the village. Employment opportunities are facilitated by policy provided the amount of traffic generated is appropriate to the road network.	<p>No.</p> <p>No development is proposed within or adjoining the SAC. The SAC is vulnerable to air pollution. However, the plan has directed most development to areas more distant from the site and is proposing only limited development within Wye. Wye is a Tier 2 settlement possessing a range of local services. Development is located at the edge of the village and relatively close to local facilities – so allowing the use of sustainable transport. The number and length of additional car journeys at Wye will therefore be limited.</p> <p>The DPD limits the amount of traffic related to employment provision.</p> <p>The SAC is vulnerable to recreation pressures. As the 112.24 ha. Wye and Crundale Downs is located within the extensive Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty the recreational demand is part of the wider AONB. Within and adjacent to the Wye and Crundale Downs there are a number of existing recreational opportunities</p>	<p>Nationally background pollution (NOx, NO2, PM10 and SO2) is declining and it has not been necessary to date to declare any Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) within the Borough for any pollutant.</p> <p>The Borough Open Space Audit (Dec 2008) records a high level natural and informal greenspace within the rural area of the Borough given the prevalence of natural space.</p> <p>Kent Downs AONB Management Plan (2009) has been formally adopted by all of the Local Authorities of the Kent Downs AONB, including Ashford Borough Council. The plan recognises the importance of the SAC. The Management Plan targets the sustainable management and extension of the area of chalk grassland,</p>	<p>The Core Strategy makes provision for 16,770 dwellings by 2021 which is likely to increase traffic levels, however Core Strategy Policy CS1 (A) requires all proposals for development to respect the environmental limits that protect air quality standards and (I) a wider choice of easy to use forms of sustainable transport to serve developments which generate significant demand for movement. The SAC is recognised in the justification of the Core Strategy Biodiversity policy CS11.</p> <p>The SAC is approximately 4km from the centre of Ashford. However, the Core Strategy requires new development to meet the open space needs generated by new development, and strategic parks and a green network are to be provided to serve the town and its new growth areas (CS18 and I8a). The Core Strategy also indicated the intention to prepare a Green and Blue Grid strategy to be adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). This SPD, intended to be</p>

Possible effect of the DPD	Is there a risk of significant effects?	Other trends, plans etc	In combination effects
	<p>that vary from horse riding, cycling, walks, fishing , gliding - including the Wye National Nature Reserve. The Wye and Crundale Downs itself is advertised as a location for a horse riding opportunities, linking the downland and woodland on the North Downs to the east of the Stour valley. Within Wye the North Downs Way is a National Trail which runs for 140 miles from Farnham in Surrey to Dover in Kent, passing through the Wye Downs. Data from Natural England noted that the number of visitors to Wye NNR (including Wye Crown) is approx. 9,000 per annum. This includes visitors from the local area, from across Kent and tourists. However, the plan is proposing only limited residential development within Wye. In the longer term, the decreasing average household size is likely to mean that the population in Wye will not significantly change from that which exists today. There is therefore unlikely to be significant adverse effects of development within Wye.</p>	<p>particularly through conservation grazing and grazing schemes. Proposals to increase recreational use will be supported only where they protect and where possible enhance the biodiversity and landscape qualities of the AONB.</p> <p>.</p> <p>.</p>	<p>produced around the end of 2009, will set out how Ashford will provide for multi-functional green-space uses, including providing for an enhanced recreational and cultural experience. The quality and accessibility of natural greenspace should be improved. Delivery of improved greenspace would need to be phased in parallel to occupation of the development and would need to serve a similar recreational function to the SAC, from which it is intended to draw recreational users (i.e. horse riding, cycling, walks and appreciation of nature). The delivery of the SPD will, in combination with other Core Strategy policies, help to meet the recreational needs of the growing town and reduce any indirect recreational impact that may occur on the Wye and Crundale Downs SAC.</p>

The Stodmarsh SAC and SPA

In assessing the effects of wastewater effluent discharges the South East Plan Appropriate Assessment states that they have not been able to conclude that there will be no adverse effect upon the integrity of European sites. Stodmarsh SAC was one of these European sites for which it was not possible to conclude no adverse effect due to increased effluent discharge associated with developments under the South East Plan, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects. For this reason an AA should be carried out at a more local level where sewage or run-off from proposed developments could have a significant impact on the integrity of a European site.

The key findings of the Assessment into the Core Strategy identified that both risk of effects from water abstraction and risk of effects from WWTW8 and landfill discharges, resulting from the growth of Ashford, have the potential to adversely affect the Stodmarsh SAC and SPA. The likely potential significant effects on the integrity of the European Sites were therefore considered to be

- A. - Effects from WWTW8 and landfill discharges - from increased development
- B. - Effects from water abstraction – from increased water use,

These are assessed in the table below.

Possible effect of the DPD	Is there a risk of significant effects?	Other trends, plans etc	In combination effects
The total number of dwellings proposed in the DPD is just over 1000 dwellings. Employment opportunities are facilitated provided certain criteria are met. There is no specific transport or other infrastructure allocation.	No. Sewage or run-off from proposed developments within the DPD could not have a significant impact on the integrity of the SAC, placed as it is some 20km from the nearest allocated sites for 45 dwellings in Wye. No detailed proposals or site allocations are made for sewerage treatment works in the DPD as there are no known constraints in capacity to accommodate the level and distribution of development contained within the DPD. The amount and distribution of development proposed in the DPD are broadly the same as the Core Strategy. The amount of development allocated within this DPD is a minor proportion of new development expected in the wider sub-region. Increased water efficiency and the reduction of water consumption is a key	Policy NRM1 (Sustainable Water Resources and Groundwater Quality) of the South East Plan, and the Environment Agency's consent regime already helps to ensure that water quality is maintained, particularly at European sites. The Water Frameworks Directive will further support this. The Ashford Integrated Water Management Study acknowledges that the current regional strategy for water resources, with its reliance on maximum groundwater abstraction from aquifers in the Stour catchment, will contravene the Water Framework Directive until a major new source can be brought into operation, such as Broad Oak reservoir in East Kent identified in Policy NRM3 of the South East Plan to reduce groundwater abstraction in the Upper Stour catchment. The reduced supply would be at least matched by a new river	The Core Strategy has through Policy CS21 Water Supply and Treatment and CS18 Meeting Community Needs identified the need for an enhancement and increase, where appropriate, of waste water infrastructure. The Bywater Waste Water Treatment Works (WWTW) may need to be expanded or an additional site found elsewhere in Ashford and an appropriate site will be allocated in the Urban Sites and Infrastructure DPD. This will reduce any potential adverse effects and potential significant effects on the Stodmarsh SPA as a result of Ashford's growth. The Core Strategy (Policy CS20) also

Possible effect of the DPD	Is there a risk of significant effects?	Other trends, plans etc	In combination effects
	<p>component of new sustainable construction standards. In addition, the Ashford Integrated Water Management Study refers to an additional reservoir in East Kent which would reduce groundwater abstraction in the Upper Stour catchment. This would mitigate against any minor changes in water abstraction which may result from this DPD.</p>	<p>abstraction and water treatment plant located upstream of Wye. This would draw water from the Great Stour whose flows would be increased by treated wastewater from Ashford, and downstream would not fall below current levels in summer. Higher rates of abstraction may be possible at times of higher flows in the Great Stour, allowing groundwater abstractions to be further reduced and greater recovery of groundwater reserves. The new works might also allow faster replenishment of Bewl reservoir following a dry winter by reducing demand for water from Bewl, and in turn possibly allowing lower abstraction in summer. In the early years of Broad Oak or an equivalent new resource the additional supply would allow further reduction of groundwater abstraction from the Stour catchment and it would be possible to cease operating the works near Wye.</p>	<p>states that all development should include appropriate sustainable drainage systems (SUDS) which achieve a reduction in water run-off and potentially purification of the water.</p>

Conclusions

The plan preparation process, influenced by the Sustainability Appraisal (SA), has ensured that options have been chosen which have sufficiently reduced any impacts on the integrity of the Natura 2000 sites. There are no alternative solutions which would not result in the Tenterden & Rural Sites DPD being inconsistent with the Core Strategy.

In relation to the impact on the Wye and Crundale Downs SAC, the Tenterden & Rural Sites DPD has not allocated development within or adjoining the site. Development in Wye is limited and the overall population is unlikely to significantly change in the longer term.

The Kent Downs AONB is an extensive area to absorb recreation pressure and careful management of the area is effected through partnership of local authorities (including Ashford Borough Council) and others. The development of detailed briefs for Ashford's strategic parks and the Green and Blue Grid SPD gives further opportunities to set out in detail how Ashford will provide for multi-functional green-space uses, including providing for an enhanced recreational and cultural experience to serve a similar recreational function to the SAC, from which it is intended to draw recreational users (i.e. horse riding, cycling, walks and appreciation of nature).

Air pollution from additional local traffic movements and industry is limited by the location, type and amount of development allocated in the DPD and the mitigating impacts of the Core Strategy and the Tenterden & Rural Sites DPD policies which restrict traffic and provide alternative modes of transport.

In relation to the more distant Stodmarsh SAC and SPA, the South East Plan, the Core Strategy and the Ashford Integrated Water Management Study make provision to ensure that groundwater abstractions continue to be reduced and that there is sufficient provision of waste water treatment plant to serve the development proposed. The limited amount of development proposed within the Tenterden and Rural Sites SPD will reduce the impact on the SAC and SPA.

The Appropriate Assessment therefore concludes that the potential significant effects identified are either assessed as not having a significant impact on the European sites or are mitigated by the approach set out within Core Strategy, the Tenterden & Rural Sites DPD and other related documents (including the Kent Downs AONB Management Plan and the Ashford Integrated Water Management Study). The DPD will work in combination with PPS9 and other national guidance; the South East Plan and, at the local level, the Core Strategy and other plans to manage and mitigate any harmful effects of development on the environment.

It is therefore possible to conclude that no significant negative effects on the integrity of the Natura 2000 sites would result from the Tenterden & Rural Sites DPD.

Wye and Crundale Downs SAC



Site area: 112.24 ha

Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (*Festuco-Brometalia*) (important orchid sites) 51.69% cover

Asperulo-Fagetum beech forests 1.8% cover

Habitat classes	% cover
Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana	5.0
Dry grassland. Steppes	60.0
Improved grassland	15.0
Broad-leaved deciduous woodland	20.0

Soil & geology:

Basic, Limestone, Nutrient-poor, Sedimentary

Geomorphology & landscape:

Escarpment, Hilly, Lowland, Slope

Quality and importance

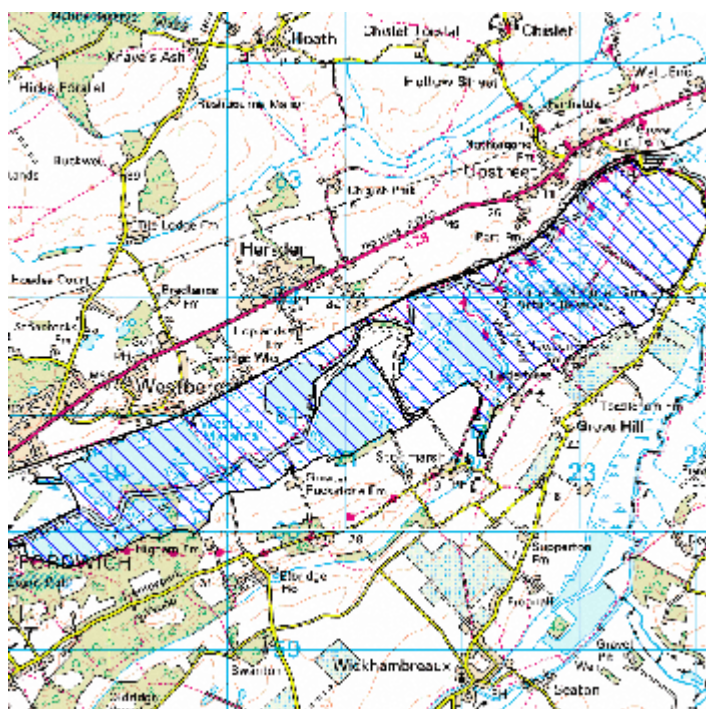
Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (*Festuco-Brometalia*) (important orchid sites)

- for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom.

Vulnerability

Continuous grazing management on this site is essential to maintain the interest. Grazing on some parts of the site has been intermittent in recent years, leading to some increase in scrub and rank grasses. Within the part of the site managed as a National Nature Reserve, a programme of scrub clearance and the reintroduction of grazing are addressing this problem. On other parts, discussion with private land managers is being used to encourage traditional management.

Stodmarsh SAC



Site area 564.64ha

Habitat classes	% cover
Inland water bodies (standing water, running water)	38.0
Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens	50.0
Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana	6.0
Broad-leaved deciduous woodland	1.0

Soil & geology:

Alluvium, Neutral, Nutrient-poor

Geomorphology & landscape:

Floodplain, Lowland

Quality and importance

Vertigo moulinsiana

- for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom.

Vulnerability

Approximately half of the site is managed as a National Nature Reserve. The remainder of the site is managed in a way that is compatible with nature conservation.

Stodmarsh Special Protection Area (SPA)

Special Protection Areas (SPAs) are strictly protected sites classified in accordance with Article 4 of the EC Directive on the conservation of wild birds (79/409/EEC), also known as the Birds Directive, which came into force in April 1979. They are classified for rare and vulnerable birds, listed in Annex I to the Birds Directive, and for regularly occurring migratory species.

Site area: 6514.71 (ha)

Habitat classes	% cover
Tidal rivers. Estuaries. Mud flats. Sand flats. Lagoons (including saltwork basins)	2.7
Inland water bodies (standing water, running water)	28.9
Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens	45.6
Improved grassland	17.5
Broad-leaved deciduous woodland	5.3

Soil & geology:

Mud, Neutral, Peat

Geomorphology & landscape:

Floodplain, Lowland, Valley

Quality and importance

ARTICLE 4.1 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC)

Over winter the area regularly supports:

Botaurus stellaris

(Europe - breeding)

4% of the GB population

5 year peak count, 1987/8-1991/2

Circus cyaneus 1.2% of the GB population

5 year peak count, 1987/8-1991/2

ARTICLE 4.2 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC)

During the breeding season the area regularly supports:

Anas strepera

(North-western Europe)

0.8% of the population in Great Britain

5 year mean, 1988-1992

Over winter the area regularly supports:

Anas clypeata

(North-western/Central Europe)

1.9% of the population in Great Britain

5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96

Anas strepera

(North-western Europe)

1.8% of the population in Great Britain

5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96

ARTICLE 4.2 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC): AN INTERNATIONALLY IMPORTANT ASSEMBLAGE OF BIRDS

During the breeding season the area regularly supports:

Acrocephalus schoenobaenus, Acrocephalus scirpaceus, Anas penelope, Anas platyrhynchos, Anser albifrons albifrons, Aythya ferina, Aythya fuligula, Gallinago gallinago, Gallinago gallinago, Locustella luscinioides, Locustella naevia, Podiceps cristatus, Rallus aquaticus, Tringa tetanus, Vanellus vanellus, Vanellus vanellus.

Vulnerability

Much of Stodmarsh is a National Nature Reserve, and is therefore relatively secure and well managed. The area of habitat has recently been expanded, improving the situation for wetland birds by acquiring an area of turf fields adjacent to the SPA/ Ramsar site for conversion to reedbed, open water and grazing marsh. Continued maintenance of the reedbeds is essential to control the invasion of scrub. Privately owned parts of the site are affected by disturbance. The western end of the SPA is used by wildfowling and fishermen, both of which cause disturbance to the birds and is being addressed through Site Management Statements. The other significant problem relates to water supply, and in drought years abstraction for other water users can affect the supply of water to about 70% of the site. Abstraction licences will be reviewed under the relevant provisions of the Habitat Regulations. Management of parts of the site owned by private land owners is being addressed by the production of Site Management Statements which aim to encourage land managers to improve their management of wildlife habitats. Landowners are being encouraged to put land into the Countryside Stewardship Scheme in order to address problems arising from neglect of wetland habitats.