

Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS)

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Designation date

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Site Reference Number

2. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

Designated: 22 September 1993 / Updated: May 2005

3. Country:

UK (England)

4. Name of the Ramsar site:

The New Forest

5. Map of site included:**a) hard copy** (required for inclusion of site in the Ramsar List): *yes -or- no***b) digital (electronic) format** (optional): No

6. Geographical coordinates (latitude/longitude):

50° 49' 32'' N

01° 39' 22'' W

7. General location:

Nearest town/city: Southampton

Central southern England

Administrative region: Hampshire; Wiltshire

8. Elevation (average and/or max. & min.) (metres): **9. Area** (hectares): 28003

Min. No information available

Max. No information available

Mean No information available

10. Overview:

The New Forest is an area of semi-natural vegetation including valley mires, fens and wet heath within catchments whose uncultivated and undeveloped state buffer the mires against adverse ecological change. The habitats present are of high ecological quality and diversity with undisturbed transition zones.

The suite of mires is regarded as the *locus classicus* of this type of mire in Britain. Other wetland habitats include numerous ponds of varying size and water chemistry including several ephemeral ponds and a network of small streams mainly acidic in character which have no lowland equivalent in the UK. The plant communities in the numerous valleys and seepage step mires show considerable variation, being affected especially by the nutrient content of groundwater. In the most nutrient-poor zones, *Sphagnum* bog-mosses, cross-leaved heath, bog asphodel, common cottongrass and similar species predominate. In more enriched conditions the communities are more fen-like.

11. Ramsar Criteria:

1, 2, 3

12. Justification for the application of each Criterion listed in 11. above:

Ramsar criterion 1

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.

Ramsar criterion 2

The site supports a diverse assemblage of wetland plants and animals including several nationally rare species. Seven species of nationally rare plants are found on the site, as are at least 65 British Red Data Book species of invertebrate.

The higher plants *Cicendia filiformis*, *Illecebrum verticillatum* and *Myosurus minimus* are considered vulnerable by the GB Red Book; while *Mentha pulegium* and *Ranunculus tripartitus* are included as endangered; and *Pulicaria vulgaris* as critically endangered.

The Dark Guest Ant *Anergates atratulus* is also considered vulnerable by the IUCN Red List.

Ramsar criterion 3

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. The site contains a rich invertebrate fauna.

13. Biogeography:**a) biogeographic region:**

Atlantic

b) biogeographic regionalisation scheme (include reference citation):

Council Directive 92/43/EEC

14. Physical features of the site:

Soil & geology	acidic, neutral, sand, clay, alluvium, peat, nutrient-poor, gravel
Geomorphology and landscape	lowland, hilly
Nutrient status	oligotrophic
pH	acidic, alkaline
Salinity	fresh
Soil	mainly mineral
Water permanence	usually permanent, usually seasonal / intermittent
Summary of main climatic features	Annual averages (Everton, 1971–2000) (www.metoffice.com/climate/uk/averages/19712000/sites/everton.html) Max. daily temperature: 14.0° C Min. daily temperature: 7.0° C Days of air frost: 32.5 Rainfall: 763.7 mm Hrs. of sunshine: 1750.7

General description of the Physical Features:

No information available

15. Physical features of the catchment area:

No information available

16. Hydrological values:

Flood water storage / desynchronisation of flood peaks, maintenance of water quality (removal of nutrients)

17. Wetland types

Inland wetland

Code	Name	% Area
Xp	Forested peatland	0.4
M	Rivers / streams / creeks: permanent	0.4
U	Peatlands (including peat bogs swamps, fens)	5.3
W	Shrub-dominated wetlands	0.6
Xf	Freshwater, tree-dominated wetlands	0.8
Other	Other (valley mires, fens and wet heath, network of small streams mainly acidic, woods etc.)	92.5

18. General ecological features:

The New Forest valley mires and fens include the following community types:

M21a *Narthecium ossifragum*–*Sphagnum papillosum* mire, *Sphagnum auriculatum*–*Rhynchospora* sub-community; M6di *Carex echinata*–*Sphagnum recurvum* mire, *Juncus acutiflorus* sub-community; M29 *Hypericum elodes*–*Potamogeton polygonifolius* soakway; M1 *Sphagnum auriculatum* bog pool; M14 *Schoenus nigricans*–*Narthecium ossifragum* mire, and other marl bogs.

Alder carr: W4 *Betula pubescens*–*Molinia caerulea* and W5 *Alnus glutinosa*–*Carex paniculata*.

Wet heath: M16a *Erica tetralix*–*Sphagnum compactum* wet heath, *Succisa pratensis*–*Carex panicea* sub-community, and M16c *Erica tetralix*–*Sphagnum compactum* wet heath, *Rhynchospora alba*–*Drosera intermedia* sub-community.

Other inundation communities of note are: MG8; MG11; MG13; M22 and M23.

Bog woodland – rich in relict lichen communities.

Residual floodplain woodland.

19. Noteworthy flora:**Nationally important species occurring on the site.****Higher Plants.**

Pulicaria vulgaris, *Eriophorum gracile*, *Mentha pulegium*, *Ludwigia palustris*, *Pilularia globulifera*, *Elatine hexandra*, *Eleocharis acicularis*, *Gentiana pneumonanthe*, *Illecebrum verticillatum*, *Lycopodium inundatum*, *Carex montana*, *Cicendia filiformis*, *Deschampsia setacea*, *Thelypteris palustris*, *Hammarbya paludosa*, *Eleocharis parvula*, *Galium debile*, *Gentiana pneumonanthe*, *Impatiens noli-tangere*, *Myosurus minimus*, *Oenanthe pimpinelloides*, *Parentucellia viscosa*, *Polygonum monspeliensis*, *Polygonum minus*, *Ranunculus tripartitus*, *Rhynchospora fusca*, *Thelypteris palustris*, *Utricularia intermedia*.

20. Noteworthy fauna:**Species currently occurring at levels of national importance:****Species regularly supported during the breeding season:**

Dartford warbler, *Sylvia undata*, Europe 538 pairs, representing an average of 33.6% of the GB population (Source period not collated)

Species with peak counts in winter:Hen harrier, *Circus cyaneus*, Europe

15 individuals, representing an average of 2% of the GB population (Source period not collated)

Species Information**Species occurring at levels of international importance.****Invertebrates.***Coenagrion mercuriale*, *Lucanus cervus***Nationally important species occurring on the site.****Amphibians.***Triturus cristatus***Fish.***Lampetra planeri*, *Cottus gobio***Invertebrates.**

Scientific Name	Common Name	GB Status
<i>Amara famelica</i>	A ground beetle	pRDB3
<i>Bagous frit</i>	A weevil	pRDB3
<i>Buckleria paladum</i>	A plum moth	pRDB3
<i>Caloptilia falconipennel</i>	A micro moth	pRDB3
<i>Cantharis fusca</i>	A soldier beetle	pRDB3
<i>Coniocleonus nebulosus</i>	A weevil	pRDB3
<i>Crambus silvella</i>	A pyralid moth	pRDB3
<i>Dieckmaniellus gracilis</i>	A seed weevil	pRDB3
<i>Euplectus punctatus</i>	A short-winged mould	pRDB3
<i>Lampronia fuscata</i>	A longhorn moth	pRDB3
<i>Leptura fulva</i>	A longhorn beetle	pRDB3
<i>Miscroscydmus minimus</i>	A small ant-like beetle	pRDB3
<i>Paraphotistus nigricorni</i>	A click beetle	pRDB3
<i>Procaerus tibialis</i>	A click beetle	pRDB3
<i>Telmatophilus brevicolli</i>	A silken fungus beetle	pRDB3
<i>Tenthredopsis friesei</i>	A sawfly	pRDB3
<i>Acritus homoeopathicus</i>	A carrion beetle	RDB3
<i>Ampedus cinnabarinus</i>	A click beetle	RDB3
<i>Aradus corticalis</i>	a flat bark bug	RDB3
<i>Arctosa fulvolineata</i>	A wolf spider	RDB3
<i>Brachyopa bicolor</i>	A hoverfly	RDB3
<i>Callicera aurata</i>	A hoverfly	RDB3
<i>Catocala promissa</i>	Light Crimson Underwing	RDB3
<i>Chorthippus vagans</i>	Heath Grasshopper	RDB3
<i>Coenagrion mercuriale</i>	Southern Damselfly	RDB3
<i>Colydium elongatum</i>	A narrow timber beet	RDB3
<i>Corticeus unicolour</i>	A darkling beetle	RDB3
<i>Diodontus insidiosus</i>	A solitary wasp	RDB3
<i>Enochrus isotae</i>	A scavenger water beetle	RDB3
<i>Grammoptera ustulata</i>	A longhorn beetle	RDB3
<i>Haematopota grandis</i>	A horse fly	RDB3
<i>Haliphus variegatus</i>	A crawling water beetle	RDB3
<i>Halpodrassus umbratilis</i>	A ground spider	RDB3
<i>Heliothis maritima</i>	Shoulder-striped Clover	RDB3
<i>Heterogenea asella</i>	Triangle	RDB3
<i>Hirudo medicinalis</i>	Medicinal Leech	RDB3
<i>Hydrothassa hannoveriana</i>	A leaf beetle	RDB3
<i>Leptothorax interruptus</i>	An ant	RDB3

<i>Leptura sexguttata</i>	6 spotted longhorn	RDB3
<i>Malachius aeneus</i>	A malachine beetle	RDB3
<i>Mesosa nebulosa</i>	A longhorn beetle	RDB3
<i>Microrhagus pygmaeus</i>	A false click beetle	RDB3
<i>Moma alpium</i>	Scarce merveille du jour	RDB3
<i>Nysius helveticus</i>	A ground bug	RDB3
<i>Ortholomus punctipennis</i>	A ground bug	RDB3
<i>Orthoperus brunripes</i>	A minute fungus beetle	RDB3
<i>Pachybrachius luridus</i>	A ground bug	RDB3
<i>Paederus caligatus</i>	A rove beetle	RDB3
<i>Pelecocera tricincta</i>	A hoverfly	RDB3
<i>Psen spooneri</i>	A solitary wasp	RDB3
<i>Thyridanthrax fenestratu</i>	A bee fly	RDB3
<i>Tipula (Yamatipula) marginata</i>	A crane fly	RDB3
<i>Triplax lacordairii</i>	A shiny fungus beetle	RDB3
<i>Aderus brevicornis</i>	An aderid beetle	pRDB2
<i>Donacia bicolora</i>	A leaf beetle	pRDB2
<i>Gnorimus nobilis</i>	A dung beetle or chafer	pRDB2
<i>Limonia (Mewtalimnobia)</i>	A crane fly	pRDB2
<i>Neompheria bimaculata</i>	A fungus gnat	pRDB2
<i>Trachys minuta</i>	A jewel beetle	pRDB2
<i>Xyletinus longitarsis</i>	A wood boring beetle	pRDB2
<i>Zeugophora flavicollis</i>	A leaf beetle	RDB2
<i>Agabus brunneus</i>	A water beetle	RDB2
<i>Argynnis adippe</i>	High Brown Fritillary	RDB2
<i>Brachypeza armata</i>	A fungus gnat	RDB2
<i>Catocala sponsa</i>	Dark Crimson Underwing	RDB2
<i>Diaperis boleti</i>	A darkling beetle	RDB2
<i>Graptodytes flavipes</i>	A water beetle	RDB2
<i>Helophorus laticollis</i>	A scavenger water beetle	RDB2
<i>Lymexylon navale</i>	A timber beetle	RDB2
<i>Pachythelia villosella</i>	A bagworm moth	RDB2
<i>Pocota personata</i>	A hoverfly	RDB2
<i>Solva maculata</i>	A fly	RDB2
<i>Stenoptilia graphodactyl</i>	A plume moth	RDB2
<i>Stethophyma grossum</i>	Large Marsh Grasshopper	RDB2
<i>Thanatus formicinus</i>	A running crab spider	RDB2
<i>Anthicus tristis</i>	An antlike beetle	pRDB1
<i>Chrysops sepulchralis</i>	A horse fly	pRDB1
<i>Cicadette montana</i>	New Forest Cicada	pRDB1
<i>Endophloeus markovichian</i>	A narrow timber beetle	pRDB1
<i>Euheptaulacus sus</i>	a dung beetle	pRDB1
<i>Gasterophilus nasalis</i>	A bot fly	pRDB1
<i>Heptaulacus testudinariu</i>	A dung beetle or chafer	pRDB1
<i>Lagria atripes</i>	A darkling beetle	pRDB1
<i>Lebia cyanocephala</i>	A ground beetle	pRDB1
<i>Manda mandibularis</i>	A rove beetle	pRDB1
<i>Platydemus violaceum</i>	A darkling beetle	pRDB1
<i>Pseudopomyza atrimana</i>	A fly	pRDB1
<i>Pterostichus kugelanni</i>	A ground beetle	pRDB1
<i>Silvanoprus fagi</i>	A beetle	pRDB1
<i>Strangalia revestita</i>	A longhorn beetle	pRDB1
<i>Tachinus bipustulatus</i>	A rove beetle	pRDB1
<i>Tachys edmondsi</i>	A ground beetle	pRDB1
<i>Tachys walkerianus</i>	A ground beetle	pRDB1

<i>Acylophorus glaberrimus</i>	A rove beetle	RDB1
<i>Andrena ferox</i>	A solitary bee	RDB1
<i>Anthaxa nitidula</i>	A jewel beetle	RDB1
<i>Apalus muralis</i>	An oil beetle	RDB1
<i>Aphodius niger</i>	A dung beetle or chafer	RDB1
<i>Bagous brevis</i>	A weevil	RDB1
<i>Bagous czwalinai</i>	A weevil	RDB1
<i>Bagous longitarsis</i>	A weevil	RDB1
<i>Batrisodes delaporti</i>	A short-winged mould	RDB1
<i>Caliprobola speciosa</i>	A hoverfly	RDB1
<i>Chrysomela tremula</i>	A leaf beetle	RDB1
<i>Cryptocephalus nitidulus</i>	A leaf beetle	RDB1
<i>Emus hirtus</i>	Hairy Rove-beetle	RDB1
<i>Eucnemis capucina</i>	A false click beetle	RDB1
<i>Eutheia linearis</i>	A small antlike beetle	RDB1
<i>Formica transcaucasica</i>	The Bog Ant	RDB1
<i>Gryllus campestris</i>	Field Cricket	RDB1
<i>Homonotus sanguinolentus</i>	A spider-hunting wasp	RDB1
<i>Longitarsus nigerrimus</i>	A leaf beetle	RDB1
<i>Megapenthes lugens</i>	A click beetle	RDB1
<i>Melandrya barbata</i>	A false darkling beetle	RDB1
<i>Paromalus parallelepiped</i>	A carrion beetle	RDB1
<i>Potamia setifemur</i>	A muscid fly	RDB1
<i>Pterostichus aterrimus</i>	A ground beetle	RDB1
<i>Triops cancriformis</i>	Apus	RDB1
<i>Velleius dilatatus</i>	Hornet Rove-beetle	RDB1
<i>Anergates atratulus</i>	Dark Guest Ant	RDB K
<i>Atomaria lohsei</i>	A silken fungus beetle	RDB K
<i>Ptenidium turgidum</i>	A featherwing beetle	RDB K
<i>Aleochara fumata</i>	A rove beetle	pRDBK
<i>Atheta nannion</i>	A rove beetle	pRDBK
<i>Atheta puberula</i>	A rove beetle	pRDBK
<i>Biblopectus tenebrosus</i>	A short-winged mould	pRDBK
<i>Cryptophagus micaceus</i>	A silken fungus beetle	pRDBK
<i>Eutheia plicata</i>	A small antlike beetle	pRDBK
<i>Gyrophana poweri</i>	A rove beetle	pRDBK
<i>Hister quadrimaculatus</i>	A carrion beetle	pRDBK
<i>Leiodes macropus</i>	A round fungus beetle	pRDBK
<i>Leiodes nigrita</i>	A round fungus beetle	pRDBK
<i>Leiodes triepkii</i>	A round fungus beetle	pRDBK
<i>Limotettix atricapillus</i>	A leafhopper	pRDBK
<i>Mordellistena humeralis</i>	A tumbling flower beetle	pRDBK
<i>Onthophagus fracticornis</i>	A dung beetle or chafer	pRDBK
<i>Phyllodrepa salicis</i>	A rove beetle	pRDBK
<i>Ptinella limbata</i>	A featherwing beetle	pRDBK
<i>Scydomoraphes sparshalli</i>	A small antlike beetle	pRDBK
<i>Sitona puberulus</i>	A weevil	pRDBK
<i>Stenichnus poweri</i>	A small antlike beetle	pRDBK
<i>Stenus morio</i>	A rove beetle	pRDBK
<i>Tabanus miki</i>	A horse fly	pRDBK
<i>Zyras cognatus</i>	A rove beetle	pRDBK
<i>Agathidium confusum</i>	A round fungus beetle	RDB I
<i>Amarochara bonnairei</i>	A rove beetle	RDB I
<i>Atomaria sahlbergi</i>	A silken fungus beetle	RDB I
<i>Cassida nebulosa</i>	A leaf beetle	RDB I

Euconnus denticornis A small antlike beetle RDB I
Euplectus decipiens A short-winged mould RDB I
Euryusa optabilis A rove beetle RDB I
Ityocara rubens A rove beetle RDB I
Lithocharis obsoleta A rove beetle RDB I
Medon castaneus A rove beetle RDB I
Planeustomus flavicollis A rove beetle RDB I
Stenus asphaltinus A rove beetle RDB I
Stichoglossa semirufa A rove beetle RDB I
Tachnusus scapularis A rove beetle RDB I
Tychobythinus glabratus A short-winged mould RDB I
Bidessus unistriatus
Formica candida
Longitarsus ferrugineus
Lymnaea glabra
Biblioplectus tenebrosus
Helophorus laticollis
Hydroporus rufifrons
Phaonia jaroschewskii
Eristalis cryptarum
Chirocephalus diaphanous
Eyndyas nigripes
Helophorus longitarsus
Hydrochus elongates
Hygropora cunctans
Aleochara discipennis
Athetis palustris
Pelosia muscerda
Dolichopus andalusiacus
Tetanocera freyi
Bagous collignesis
Telmaturgus tumidulus
Tabanus bovinus

21. Social and cultural values:

Aesthetic
 Archaeological/historical site
 Conservation education
 Current scientific research
 Forestry production
 Livestock grazing
 Non-consumptive recreation
 Sport fishing
 Sport hunting
 Tourism

22. Land tenure/ownership:

Ownership category	On-site	Off-site
Non-governmental organisation	+	+
Local authority, municipality etc.	+	+
National/Crown estate	+	+
Private	+	
Other	+	+

23. Current land (including water) use:

Activity	On-site	Off-site
Nature conservation	+	+
Tourism	+	+
Recreation	+	+
Research	+	
Commercial forestry	+	+
Cutting for firewood	+	+
Cutting of vegetation (small scale/subsistence)	+	
Fishing: recreational/sport	+	+
Bait collection		+
Shifting arable agriculture		+
Livestock watering hole/pond	+	
Grazing (unspecified)	+	+
Rough or shifting grazing		+
Permanent pastoral agriculture	+	+
Hay meadows	+	+
Hunting: recreational/sport	+	+
Sewage treatment/disposal	+	+
Flood control	+	+
Mineral exploration	+	+
Transport route	+	+
Urban development		+
Non-urbanised settlements		+
Military activities	+	

24. Factors adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land (including water) use and development projects:

Explanation of reporting category:

1. Those factors that are still operating, but it is unclear if they are under control, as there is a lag in showing the management or regulatory regime to be successful.
2. Those factors that are not currently being managed, or where the regulatory regime appears to have been ineffective so far.

NA = Not Applicable because no factors have been reported.

Adverse Factor Category	Reporting Category	Description of the problem (Newly reported Factors only)	On-Site	Off-Site	Major Impact?
Commercial scale forest exploitation	1		+	+	+
Drainage/reclamation: (unspecified)	1		+	+	+
Introduction/invasion of exotic plant species	1		+		
Recreational/tourism disturbance (unspecified)	1		+	+	

For category 2 factors only.

What measures have been taken / are planned / regulatory processes invoked, to mitigate the effect of these factors?

Is the site subject to adverse ecological change? NO

25. Conservation measures taken:

Conservation measure	On-site	Off-site
SSSI / ASSI	+	+
NNR	+	+
SPA	+	
Land owned by a NGO for nature conservation	+	+
Management agreement	+	
Site management statement/plan implemented	+	
SAC	+	

26. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:

No information available

27. Current scientific research and facilities:

Contemporary.

Environment.

SSSI monitoring.

Flora and Fauna.

Research into the effects of disturbance of ground-nesting birds has been discussed and once methodologies have been agreed resources will be sought.

Completed.

Flora and Fauna.

Vegetation and Invertebrate Surveys of selected sites.

28. Current conservation education:

Facilities include Minstead Study Centre and the Countryside Education Trust which is available for local schools and institutions. A ranger/recreation Service is provided by the Forestry Commission.

29. Current recreation and tourism:

Activities, Facilities provided and Seasonality.

Camping, informal walking, horse-riding, cycling, bird-watching, shooting, etc - all year.

No evidence that current levels of recreational activities threaten site. Recreational facilities are now under review.

30. Jurisdiction:

Head, Natura 2000 and Ramsar Team, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, European Wildlife Division, Zone 1/07, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Temple Quay, Bristol, BS1 6EB

31. Management authority:

Site Designations Manager, English Nature, Sites and Surveillance Team, Northminster House,
Northminster Road, Peterborough, PE1 1UA, UK

32. Bibliographical references:

Site-relevant references

Cooper, G (2004) *The New Forest*. Hampshire County Council HantsWeb. www.hants.gov.uk/newforest

Tubbs, CR (1986) *The New Forest*. Collins, London (New Naturalist No. 73)

McLeod, CR, Yeo, M, Brown, AE, Burn, AJ, Hopkins, JJ & Way, SF (eds.) (2004) *The Habitats Directive: selection of Special Areas of Conservation in the UK*. 2nd edn. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough. www.jncc.gov.uk/SACselection

Stewart, NF (2004) *Important stonewort areas. An assessment of the best areas for stoneworts in the United Kingdom*. Plantlife International, Salisbury

Please return to: **Ramsar Secretariat, Rue Mauverney 28, CH-1196 Gland, Switzerland**

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