

**Curdrige Parish Council (00012) and Curbridge Preservation Society (20260)
Joint Response**

Appendix (iii)

From: David Stroud [mailto:David.Stroud@jncc.gov.uk]
Sent: 02 October 2012 12:38
To: 'duncan@curbridgepreservationsociety.org.uk'
Cc: Richard Ferris; 'Anthony, Sarah (NE)'
Subject: RE: Little Egrets Southampton and Solent SPA/Ramsar

Dear Mr Murray

Richard Ferris has passed your enquiry to me. There are several of issues here.

1. It's government policy to give the same level of protection to Ramsar sites and the interest features as to Natura 2000 sites (<http://www.defra.gov.uk/rural/protected/internationally-designated-sites/>), so you are correct in supposing that – with respect to planning control *etc.* Ramsar features would be treated in the same way as Natura 2000 features at the same site.
2. There is no automatic process for adding species to the citations of internationally designated sites when populations rise above thresholds. Such additions are made as a result of periodic reviews and subsequent re-consultation at the sites concerned. The SPA network was reviewed in the late 1990s (<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-1412>) and at that time Southampton and Solent Water did not hold qualifying (nationally) important numbers of Little Egret. As a consequence it wasn't selected for this species then although three other southern English estuaries were: <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/UKSPA/UKSPA-A6-14.pdf>. The SPA network is currently again under review, although it's too early in that process to be able to indicate what the consequences will be for Little Egret.
3. Notwithstanding this, given the species status as a Ramsar feature (above) over the same area, the lack of SPA recognition has no implications for planning policies.

Hope this helps rather than confuses! – let me know if I can provide further information.

David

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From: Duncan Murray [<mailto:duncan@curbridgepreservationsociety.org.uk>]
Sent: 02 October 2012 11:48
To: Richard Ferris
Subject: Little Egrets Southampton and Solent SPA/Ramsar

Dear Mr Ferris

I am hoping you can help me with a bit of confusion I am experiencing with the status of Little Egrets in this SPA and Ramsar site. Little Egrets here are seen in the Upper Reaches of the River Hamble all year round.

- Under the Ramsar designation (Ramsar Excel workbook) they are features, as a nationally important population with a bird count of 115 representing 6.97% of the population - however I note from the SPA designations that Little Egrets are not features of the SPA although the threshold criteria is 50 individuals.

I am wondering if there is a reason for this - and also whilst the NPPF also states that the same level of protection applies to Ramsar sites and their features as to European sites it appears to give no further guidance as to the meaning of this - I am also unsure if the Ramsar level of protection for the Little Egret in this site would therefore be the same as SPA protection for an Annex 1 species?

Hoping you can clarify the situation for me.

Kind regards

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