



An Agency within the
Department of the Environment
for Northern Ireland



ENVIRONMENT
AND HERITAGE
SERVICE

EC DIRECTIVE 79/409 ON THE CONSERVATION OF WILD BIRDS

LARNE LOUGH SPECIAL PROTECTION AREA

Area: 398 hectares

Geographic co-ordinates: 05° 44' 38" W
54° 48' 54" N

Larne Lough is situated on the Co. Antrim coast in the east of Northern Ireland.

The Special Protection Area site boundary is entirely coincident with both that of the Larne Lough Area of Special Scientific Interest and the Larne Lough Ramsar site.

The site qualifies under Article 4.1 of EC Directive 79/409 on the Conservation of Wild Birds by regularly supporting internationally important numbers of Light-bellied Brent Geese *Branta bernicla hrota* in winter (the five year peak mean for the period 1991/92 to 1995/96 was 227 which comprises 1.1 % of the international population).

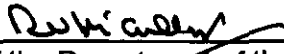
Swan Island, which was classified as an SPA in its own right in 1992, still qualifies under Article 4.1 because, in summer, it supports nationally important breeding populations of the following Annex 1 species: Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii* (the five year mean for the period 1992 to 1996 was 6 pairs which comprises 1.7 % of the Irish population) and Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* (an average of 199 pairs for the period 1992 to 1996 - 6.8 % of the Irish population).

The figure for Roseate Terns is also very close to the number required for international qualification. Swan Island has, in the recent past, held internationally important numbers of breeding Roseate Terns (1% of the international population is 6 pairs).

The Register of European Sites in Northern Ireland

Register reference number UK9020042

Date of registration 17 February 1998

Signed 
on behalf of the Department of the Environment
for Northern Ireland