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**ENVIRONMENT  
AND HERITAGE  
SERVICE**

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

**Name:** Slieve Beagh – Mullaghfad - Lisnaskea Special Protection Area

**Unitary Authority/County:** Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough Council, Fermanagh District Council.  
County Tyrone, County Fermanagh.

**Consultation proposal:** The Slieve Beagh – Mullaghfad - Lisnaskea area has been selected for classification as a Special Protection Area because of its important breeding population of Hen Harrier.

**Site description:** The Slieve Beagh – Mullaghfad - Lisnaskea SPA will comprise a single land unit extending between Slatbeg in the north-east and Coolnasillagh in the south-west and incorporating the Slieve Beagh massif, Mullaghfad Forest and Lisnaskea Forest. Slightly more than half the eastern boundary is formed by the border with the Republic of Ireland. The site is delimited principally by physical boundaries closest to merged radii extending 2.5km from nest sites used by Hen Harriers between 1997 and 2004. The site encompasses all lands within these boundaries, excluding wholly-improved pasture, arable land, buildings and associated lands. It includes coniferous plantations, blanket bog, wet and dry heath, grass moor, scrub and limited semi-improved agricultural grassland. The principal interest is the breeding population of Hen Harrier.

It should be noted that the site adjoins a proposed SPA for Hen Harrier in the Republic of Ireland.

**Size of SPA:** The SPA covers an area of 8936.11 ha.

### **Qualifying species:**

The site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting nationally important populations of the following species:

<b>Annex 1 species</b>	<b>Count and Season</b>	<b>Period</b>	<b>% Irish population</b>
Hen Harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i>	10 (8 - 12 ) pairs – breeding	Census – 2004 <sup>1</sup>	5.5 %
	8 pairs - breeding	Census - 1998 <sup>2</sup>	5.7 %

<sup>1</sup>RSPB UK Hen Harrier census 2004.

<sup>2</sup> Sim, I.M.W., Gibbons, D.W., Bainbridge, I.P. & Mattingley, W.A. 2001. Status of the Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus* in the UK and Isle of Man in 1998. *Bird Study* **48**: 341-353.

### **Status of SPA**

Slieve Beagh – Mullaghfad - Lisnaskea Special Protection Area was classified as a Special Protection Area on date (Day, Month, Year).