New Forest Key Features – Summary of Designations, Habitats & Species

The New Forest is one of the most highly designated areas within the UK and supports all the key statutory UK nature conservation designations including:

- New Forest Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
- New Forest Special Protection Area (SPA)
- New Forest RAMSAR
- New Forest Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

The New Forest supports a distinct range of habitat types characteristic and iconic to the Forest often forming an intimate mosaic with the different habitat types transitioning and merging into one another rather than forming discrete components. Nor do all the habitats fit neatly into a distinct SAC habitat type or even NVC type as the makeup of many communities is unique to the forest and its environment.

The table below attempts to summarise how the key features associated with the New Forest nature conservation designations relate to the distinctive New Forest habitat types and highlights the key habitats and species specific to each designation. In particular, the table shows how key features relate to the New Forest SAC habitats and other supporting designations. The principle can be applied that if SAC habitats are being managed or restored towards favourable condition this should also support the characteristic New Forest habitat features/species included in the other designations.

NF Habitat Type	**SAC Habitat**	**SAC Key Features**	**SPA Key features**	**RAMSAR Key Features**	**SSSS Key Features**
	Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site		**Key features of other Designations and their relationship with SAC Habitat/features**		
Temporary ponds Nutrient poor acid/neutral ponds	**3110 <u>Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae)</u>**	Hatchet Pond is in fact three ponds, one of which is an example of an oligotrophic waterbody amidst wet and dry lowland heath developed over fluvial deposits. It contains shoreweed *Littorella uniflora* and isolated populations		Ramsar criterion 1 Valley mires and wet heaths are found throughout the site and are of outstanding	Standing waters Amphibian assemblage Population of RDB plant - *Ludwigia palustris,* Hampshire Purslane

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		of northern species such as bog orchid *Hammarbya paludosa* and floating bur-reed *Sparganium angustifolium*, alongside rare southern species such as Hampshire-purslane *Ludwigia palustris*. Hatchet Pond is therefore important as a southern example of this lake type where northern species, more common in the uplands of the UK, co-exist with southern species.		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 plant are found	

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				on the site, as are at least 65 British Red Data Book species of invertebrate. 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	

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				southern England.	
Temporary ponds Richer acid/neutral ponds	**3130 <u>Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflorae and/or of the Isoëto-Nanojuncetea</u>**	In the New Forest **vegetation of the *Littorelletea uniflorae* and/or of the *Isoëto-Nanojuncetea*** occurs on the edge of large temporary ponds, shallow ephemeral pools and poached damp hollows in grassland, which support a number of specialist species in a zone with toad rush *Juncus bufonius*. These include the two nationally scarce species coral-necklace *Illecebrum verticillatum* and yellow centaury *Cicendia filiformis*, often in association with allseed *Radiola linoides* and chaffweed *Anagallis minima*. Heavy grazing pressure is of prime importance in the maintenance of the outstanding flora of these temporary pond communities. Livestock maintain an open habitat, controlling scrub ingress, and trampling the surface. Commoners' animals also transport seed in their hooves widely from pond to		Ramsar criterion 2 The site supports a diverse assemblage of wetland plants and animals including several nationally rare species. Seven species of nationally rare plant are found on the site, as are at least 65 British Red Data Book species of invertebrate. Ramsar criterion 3 The mire habitats are of high ecological quality and diversity and have undisturbed transition zones. The invertebrate	Standing waters Amphibian assemblage *Galium constrictum,* Slender Bedstraw (around pond edges) Population of RDB plant – *Ludwigia palustris,* Hampshire Purslane Population of Schedule 5 crustacean - *Chirocephalus diaphanus*, a freshwater fairy shrimp Population of Schedule 5 crustacean - *Triops cancriformis*, Tadpole Shrimp

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		pond where suitable habitat exists. Temporary ponds occur throughout the Forest in depressions capable of holding water for part of the year. Most ponds are small (between 5-10 m across) and, although great in number, amount to less than 10 ha in total area.		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.	
Wet heath	**4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix**	The New Forest contains the most extensive stands of lowland **northern Atlantic wet heaths** in southern England, mainly of the M16 *Erica tetralix – Sphagnum compactum* type. M14 *Schoenus nigricans – Narthecium ossifragum* mire is also found on this site. The wet heaths are important for rare plants, such as marsh gentian *Gentiana pneumonanthe* and marsh		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	Acid grassland - Lowland Dwarf Shrub Heath – Lowland Aggregations of breeding birds - Dartford Warbler, *Sylvia undata* Aggregations of breeding birds - Nightjar, *Caprimulgus europaeus*

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		clubmoss *Lycopodiella inundata*, and a number of dragonfly species, including the scarce blue-tailed damselfly *Ischnura pumilio* and small red damselfly *Ceriagrion tenellum*. There is a wide range of transitions between wet heath and other habitats, including dry heath, various woodland types, *Molinia* grasslands, fen, and acid grassland. Wet heaths enriched by bog myrtle *Myrica gale* are a prominent feature of many areas of the Forest. Unlike much lowland heath, the New Forest heaths continue to be extensively grazed by cattle and horses, favouring species with low competitive ability.		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 plant are found on the site, as are at least 65 British Red Data Book species of invertebrate.	Aggregations of breeding birds - Woodlark, *Lullula arborea* Aggregations of non-breeding birds - Hen Harrier, *Circus cyaneus* Assemblages of breeding birds Combinations of species - Bryophytes Combinations of species – Lichens M16 - *Erica tetralix* - *Sphagnum compactum* wet heath Reptile assemblage

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				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.	
Dry heath Humid heath	**4030 <u>European dry heaths</u>**	The New Forest represents **European dry heaths** in southern England and	**During the breeding season;**		Acid grassland - Lowland Dwarf Shrub Heath – Lowland

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Heathy acid grasslands		is the largest area of lowland heathland in the UK. It is particularly important for the diversity of its habitats and the range of rare and scarce species which it supports. The New Forest is unusual because of its long history of grazing in a traditional fashion by ponies and cattle. The dry heaths of the New Forest are of the H2 *Calluna vulgaris – Ulex minor* heath type, and H3 *Ulex minor – Agrostis curtisii* heath is found on damper areas. There are a wide range of transitions between dry heath and wet heath, *Molinia* grassland, fen, acid grassland and various types of scrub and woodland. Both the New Forest and the two Dorset Heath SACs are in southern England. All three areas are selected because together they contain a high proportion of all the lowland **European dry heaths** in the UK. There are, however, significant differences in the ecology of the two areas, associated with more oceanic conditions in Dorset and the	Dartford Warbler *Sylvia undata*, 538 pairs representing at least 33.6% of the breeding population in Great Britain Hobby *(Falco Subbuteo)* – up to 25 pairs representing around 3% of the British breeding population at the time of SPA classification Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*, 300 pairs representing at least 8.8% of the breeding population in Great Britain Woodlark *Lullula arborea*, 184 pairs representing at least 12.3% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count as at 1997) *Falco subbuteo*; Eurasian hobby (Breeding)		Aggregations of breeding birds - Dartford Warbler, *Sylvia undata* Aggregations of breeding birds - Nightjar, *Caprimulgus europaeus* Aggregations of breeding birds - Woodlark, *Lullula arborea* Aggregations of non-breeding birds - Hen Harrier, *Circus cyaneus* Assemblages of breeding birds - Lowland heath Combinations of species - Bryophytes Combinations of species – Lichens H2 - *Calluna vulgaris - Ulex* minor heath H3 - *Ulex minor - Agrostis curtisii* heath

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		continuous history of grazing in the New Forest.	**Over winter;** Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*, 15 individuals representing at least 2.0% of the wintering population in Great Britain		Population of Schedule 8 plant - *Gladiolus illyricus*, Wild Gladiolus Population of Schedule 8 plant - *Mentha pulegium*, Pennyroyal Population of Schedule 8 plant - *Pulicaria vulgaris*, Lesser Fleabane Reptile assemblage including sand lizard *Lacerta angilis* (Sch.5)* and smooth snake *Coronella austriaca* (Sch.5)
Parched dry acid grassland Moist acid grassland Neutral greens Herb-rich bracken grassland Wet grassland (wet lawn)	**6410 Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae)**	The New Forest represents ***Molinia* meadows** in southern England. The site supports a large area of the heathy form of M24 *Molinia caerulea – Cirsium dissectum* fen-meadow. This vegetation occurs in situations of heavy grazing by ponies and cattle in areas known locally as 'lawns', often in a fine-scale mosaic with **4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths** and other mire and grassland communities. These lawns occur	Woodlark *Lullula arborea*, 184 pairs representing at least 12.3% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count as at 1997)		Acid grassland – Lowland Neutral Grassland– Lowland Assemblages of breeding birds - Lowland damp grasslands (including lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, redshank *Tringa totanus*, curlew *Numenius arquata*, snipe *Gallinago gallinago* and ringed plover *Charadrius hiaticulata)*

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		on flushed soils on slopes and on level terrain on the floodplains of rivers and streams. The New Forest ***Molinia* meadows** are unusual in the UK in terms of their species composition, management and landscape position. The grasslands are species-rich, and a particular feature is the abundance of small sedges such as carnation sedge *Carex panicea*, common sedge *C. nigra* and yellow-sedge *C. viridula* ssp. *oedocarpa*, and the more frequent occurrence of mat-grass *Nardus stricta* and petty whin *Genista anglica* compared to stands elsewhere in the UK.			M23 - *Juncus effusus/acutiflorus - Galium palustre* rush pasture M24 - *Molinia caerulea - Cirsium dissectum* fen meadow M25 - *Molinia caerulea - Potentilla erecta* mire M16 - *Erica tetralix - Sphagnum compactum* wet heath *Galium constrictum,* Slender Bedstraw U1 b,c,d,f - *Festuca ovina - Agrostis capillaris - Rumex acetosella* grassland U3 - *Agrostis curtisii* grassland U4 - *Festuca ovina - Agrostis capillaris - Galium saxatile* grassland
Wet heath, Valley mires Seepage step mires, Bog pools, Poor fen	**7150 Depresssions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion**	The New Forest, one of three sites selected in southern England, is considered to hold the largest area in England of **Depressions on peat substrates of**		Ramsar criterion 1 Valley mires and wet heaths are found throughout the	Fen, Marsh & Swamp – Lowland Amphibian assemblage

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Moor-grass mires		**the *Rhynchosporion***, in complex habitat mosaics associated primarily with the extensive valley bogs of this site. The habitat type is developed in three situations: in natural bog pools of patterned bog surfaces, in flushes on the margins of valley mires and in areas disturbed by peat-digging, footpaths, tracks, ditches etc. In places the habitat type is rich in brown mosses *Cratoneuron* spp. and *Scorpidium scorpioides*, suggesting flushing by mineral-rich waters. The mosaics in which this habitat type occurs are an important location for bog orchid *Hammarbya paludosa*.		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	Combinations of species – Bryophytes Combinations of species – Lichens M1 - *Sphagnum auriculatum* bog pool community

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				nationally rare plant are found on the site, as are at least 65 British Red Data Book species of invertebrate. 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	

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				diversity of southern England.	
Pasture Woodland	**9120 <u>Atlantic acidophilous beech forests with Ilex and sometimes also Taxus in the shrublayer (Quercion robori-petraeae or Ilici-Fagenion)</u>**	The New Forest is the largest area of mature, semi-natural beech *Fagus sylvatica* woodland in Britain and represents **Atlantic acidophilous beech forests** in the most southerly part of the habitat's UK range. The mosaic with other types of woodland and heath has allowed unique and varied assemblages of epiphytic lichens and saproxylic invertebrates to be sustained, particularly in situations where the woodland is open and the tree trunks receive plenty of light. The traditional common grazing in the Forest by cattle and ponies provides opportunities to explore the impact of large herbivores on the woodland system.	Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*, 2 pairs representing at least 10.0% of the breeding population in Great Britain Hobby *(Falco Subbuteo)* – up to 25 pairs representing around 3% of the British breeding population at the time of SPA classification Wood Warbler *(Phylloscopus trochilus)* – in excess of 350 pairs representing at least 3% of the British breeding population at the time of SPA classification.		Broadleaved, Mixed and Yew Woodland - Lowland Butterflies which have experienced substantial declines - *Argynnis paphia,* Silver-washed Fritillary & *Limenitis camilla*, White Admiral Combinations of species – Bryophytes Combinations of species – Lichens Combinations of species - other groups (fungi and algae) Maternity colonies of bats - Bechstein's bat, *Myotis Bechsteinii* Population of Schedule 5 beetle - *Lucanus cervus*, Stag Beetle

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					Population of Schedule 8 fungi - *Hericium erinaceum*, Hedgehog fungus Population of Schedule 8 fungi - *Hericium erinaceus,* Bearded tooth fungus Population of Schedule 8 lichen - *Catillaria laureri*, Laurer's Catillaria Population of Schedule 8 lichen - *Parmelia minarum*, New Forest Parmelia W15 - *Fagus sylvatica* - *Deschampsia flexuosa* woodland
Pasture Woodland	***9130 Asperulo-Fagetum beech forests***	The New Forest is the largest area of mature, semi-natural beech *Fagus sylvatica* woodland in Britain; much of it is a form of W14 *Fagus sylvatica* – *Rubus fruticosus* woodland that conforms to the Annex I type ***Asperulo-Fagetum* beech**	Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*, 2 pairs representing at least 10.0% of the breeding population in Great Britain		Broadleaved, Mixed and Yew Woodland - Lowland Butterflies which have experienced substantial declines - *Limenitis camilla*, White Admiral

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		forests. The mosaic with other types of woodland and heath has allowed unique and varied assemblages of epiphytic lichens and saproxylic invertebrates to be sustained, particularly in situations where the woodlands are open and the tree trunks receive plenty of light. The traditional common grazing in the Forest by cattle and ponies provides opportunities to explore the impact of large herbivores on the woodland system.	Hobby *(Falco Subbuteo)* – up to 25 pairs representing around 3% of the British breeding population at the time of SPA classification Wood Warbler *(Phylloscopus trochilus)* – in excess of 350 pairs representing at least 3% of the British breeding population at the time of SPA classification.		Combinations of species - Bryophytes Combinations of species – Lichens Combinations of species - other groups (fungi and algae) Maternity colonies of bats - Bechstein's bat, *Myotis Bechsteinii* Population of Schedule 5 beetle - *Lucanus cervus*, Stag Beetle Population of Schedule 8 fungi - *Hericium erinaceum*, Hedgehog fungus Population of Schedule 8 fungi - *Hericium erinaceus,* Bearded tooth fungus Population of Schedule 8 lichen - *Parmelia minarum*, New Forest Parmelia

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					W14 - *Fagus sylvatica* - *Rubus fruticosus* woodland
Pasture Woodland	**9190 <u>Old acidophilous oak woods with Quercus robur on sandy plains</u>**	The New Forest is representative of **old acidophilous oak woods** in the southern part of its UK range. It is the most extensive area of active wood-pasture with old oak *Quercus* spp. and beech *Fagus sylvatica* in north-west Europe and has outstanding invertebrate and lichen populations. This site was preferred over other sites that lack a succession of age-classes because, although scattered over a wide area, the oak stands are found within a predominantly semi-natural landscape with a more balanced age-structure of trees. The traditional common grazing in the Forest by cattle and ponies provides opportunities to explore the impact of large herbivores on the woodland system. The New Forest has been identified as of potential international importance for its	Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*, 2 pairs representing at least 10.0% of the breeding population in Great Britain Hobby *(Falco Subbuteo)* – up to 25 pairs representing around 3% of the British breeding population at the time of SPA classification Hobby *(Falco Subbuteo)* – up to 25 pairs representing around 3% of the British breeding population at the time of SPA classification Wood Warbler *(Phylloscopus trochilus)* – in excess of 350 pairs representing at least 3% of the British breeding population at the time of SPA classification.		Broadleaved, Mixed and Yew Woodland - Lowland Butterflies which have experienced substantial declines - *Argynnis paphia,* Silver-washed Fritillary Butterflies which have experienced substantial declines - *Limenitis camilla*, White Admiral Combinations of species - Bryophytes Combinations of species – Lichens Combinations of species - other groups (fungi and algae) Maternity colonies of bats - Bechstein's bat,

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		saproxylic invertebrate fauna by the Council of Europe (Speight 1989).			*Myotis Bechsteinii* Population of Schedule 5 beetle - *Lucanus cervus*, Stag Beetle Population of Schedule 8 fungi - *Hericium erinaceum*, Hedgehog fungus Population of Schedule 8 fungi - *Hericium erinaceus,* Bearded tooth fungus Population of Schedule 8 lichen - *Parmelia minarum*, New Forest Parmelia W10 - *Quercus robur - Pteridium aquilinum - Rubus fruticosus* woodland W16 - *Quercus spp.- Betula spp.-Deschampsia* flexuosa woodland

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Bog woodland	**91D0 <u>Bog woodland</u>** * Priority feature	Within the New Forest, in southern England, birch – willow *Betula* – *Salix* stands occur over valley bog vegetation, with fringing alder *Alnus* – *Sphagnum* stands where there is some water movement. These stands appear to have persisted for long periods in stable association with the underlying *Sphagnum* bog-moss communities. The rich epiphytic lichen communities and pollen record provide evidence for the persistence of this association. The **Bog woodland** occurs in association with a range of other habitats for which the site has also been selected.			Broadleaved, Mixed and Yew Woodland - Lowland Combinations of species - Bryophytes Combinations of species – Lichens Combinations of species - other groups (fungi and algae) W4 - *Betula pubescens* - *Molinia caerulea* woodland W5 - *Alnus glutinosa* - *Carex paniculata* woodland
Riverine woodland Slow moving streams Fast flowing streams Acid/neutral water streams	**91E0 <u>Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)</u>** * Priority feature	The New Forest contains many streams and some small rivers that are less affected by drainage and canalisation than those in any other comparable area in the lowlands of England. Associated with many of the streams, particularly those with alkaline and neutral groundwater, are strips of			Broadleaved, Mixed and Yew Woodland - Lowland Amphibian assemblage Combinations of species – Bryophytes Combinations of species – Lichens

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		alder *Alnus glutinosa* woodland which, collectively, form an extensive resource with a rich flora. In places there are examples of transitions from open water through reedswamp and fen to alder woodland. The small rivers show natural meanders and debris dams, features that are otherwise rare in the lowlands, with fragmentary ash *Fraxinus excelsior* stands as well as the alder strips. In other places there are transitions to 9190 Old acidophilous oak woods with *Quercus robur* on sandy plains and 9120 Atlantic acidophilous beech forests with *Ilex* and sometimes also *Taxus* in the shrub layer (*Quercion robori-petraeae* or *Ilici-Fagenion*), for which this site has also been selected.			Combinations of species - other groups (fungi and algae) Population of Schedule 8 lichen - *Parmelia minarum*, New Forest Parmelia W7 - *Alnus glutinosa* - *Fraxinus excelsior* - Lysimachia nemorum woodland W8 - *Fraxinus excelsior* - *Acer campestre* - *Mercurialis perennis* woodland
	Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site		**Key features of other Designations and their relationship with SAC Habitat/features**		
Transition mires,	**7140 <u>Transition mires and quaking bogs</u>**	The term 'transition mire' relates to vegetation that in		Ramsar criterion 1	Fen, Marsh & Swamp – Lowland

NF Habitat Type	SAC Habitat	SAC Key Features	SPA Key features	RAMSAR Key Features	SSSS Key Features
Marl swamps *Valley Bogs,* Soakways *Poor fen*		floristic composition and general ecological characteristics is transitional between acid bog and **7230 Alkaline fens**, in which the surface conditions range from markedly acidic to slightly base-rich. The vegetation normally has intimate mixtures of species considered to be acidophile and others thought of as calciphile or basophile. In some cases the mire occupies a physically transitional location between bog and fen vegetation, as for example on the marginal lagg of raised bog or associated with certain valley and basin mires. In other cases these intermediate properties may reflect the actual process of succession, as peat accumulates in groundwater-fed fen or open water to produce rainwater-fed bog isolated from groundwater influence. Many of these systems are very unstable underfoot and can therefore also be described as 'quaking bogs'.		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	Amphibian assemblage Combinations of species - Bryophytes Combinations of species – Lichens M21 - *Narthecium ossifragum - Sphagnum papillosum* mire M29 - *Hypericum elodes - Potamogeton* polygonifolius soakway M6 - *Carex echinata - Sphagnum recurvum (fallax) /auriculatum (denticulatum*) mire M9 - *Carex rostrata - Calliergon cuspidatum/giganteum (Calliergonella cuspidata/Calliergon giganteum*) mire Population of Schedule 8 plant - *Eriophorum gracile*, Slender Cottongrass

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				including several nationally rare species. Seven species of nationally rare plant are found on the site, as are at least 65 British Red Data Book species of invertebrate. 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	

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				habitats is essential to the genetic and ecological diversity of southern England.	
Marl flushes	**7230 <u>Alkaline fens</u>**	Alkaline fens consist of a complex assemblage of vegetation types characteristic of sites where there is tufa and / or peat formation with a high water table and calcareous base-rich water supply. There is considerable variation between sites in the associated communities and the transitions that may occur. Such variation can be broadly classified by the geomorphological situation in which the fen occurs, namely: flood plain mire, valley mire, basin mire, hydroseral fen (i.e. as zones around open waterbodies) and spring fen.			Fen, Marsh & Swamp – Lowland Amphibian assemblage Combinations of species - Bryophytes Combinations of species – Lichens M10 - Carex dioica - Pinguicula vulgaris mire M14 - *Schoenus nigricans - Narthecium ossifragum* mire

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	Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site		**Key features of other Designations and their relationship with SAC Species**		
	1044 Southern damselfly Coenagrion mercuriale	The New Forest in central southern England is an outstanding locality for **southern damselfly *Coenagrion mercuriale***, with several population centres and strong populations estimated to be in the hundreds or thousands of individuals and with a long history of records. With Preseli, Dorset Heaths and the River Itchen, it represents one of the four major population centres in the UK.			Rivers and Streams Nationally rare and scarce dragonfly species - *Coenagrion mercuriale*, Southern Damselfly
	1083 Stag beetle Lucanus cervus	The New Forest represents **stag beetle *Lucanus cervus*** in its Hampshire/Sussex population centre, and is a major stronghold for the species in the UK. The forest is one of the most important sites in the UK for fauna associated with rotting wood, and was identified as of potential international importance for its saproxylic invertebrate fauna by			Broadleaved, Mixed and Yew Woodland - Lowland

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		the Council of Europe (Speight 1989).			
	Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection		**Key features of other Designations and their relationship with SAC Species**		
	1166 Great crested newt Triturus cristatus	The great crested newt is the largest native British newt, reaching up to around 17cms in length. Newts require aquatic habitats for breeding. Eggs are laid singly on pond vegetation in spring, and larvae develop over summer to emerge in August – October, normally taking 2–4 years to reach maturity. Juveniles spend most time on land, and all terrestrial phases may range a considerable distance from breeding sites.			Amphibian assemblage Great crested newt, *Triturus cristatus*
	Other (Not SAC related)				Geology & Geomorphology IA - Fluvial Geomorphology ED - Quaternary of South Central England EO - Palaeogene Flowing waters - Type VIII: rivers common throughout western Britain over hard rocks

NF Habitat Type	SAC Habitat	SAC Key Features	SPA Key features	RAMSAR Key Features	SSSS Key Features
					FM - Quaternary of South Central England *MG5 - Cynosurus cristatus - Centaurea nigra* grassland *Lobelia urens*, Heath Lobelia (associated with imported chalk)

In addition to the New Forest SAC/SPA/RAMSAR/SSSI there are a number of other designated sites adjacent to the New Forest which fall within or are within 1km of the perambulation including some isolated units of the New Forest SSSI. Sites include:

- Solent Maritime SAC
- Solent & Southampton Water SPA/RAMSAR
- Hurst Castle & Lymington River Estuary SSSI
- North Solent SSSI
- Sowley Pond SSSI
- Roydon Woods SSSI
- Poors Common
- Norley Copse and Meadow
- Loosehanger Copse and Meadow
- Landford Heath
- Landford Bog
- Hurst Castle and Lymington River
- Fletchwood Meadows
- Avon Valley SPA/RAMSAR/SSSI

Some of these sites are connected hydrologically and could potentially benefit from management or restoration of New Forest features. Others have similar habitat types. However some of the larger units, for example the Avon Valley, have their own discrete Agri-environment agreements and well-established management/steering groups and tend to operate discreetly from the New Forest.

In addition to the habitats and species of interest within designated sites there is a list of priority habitats and species of principal importance in England which includes 56 habitats and 943 species (often referred to as Section 41 habitats and species), many of which are found in the New Forest. The list is for

- public bodies – to help them meet their 'biodiversity duty" to be aware of biodiversity conservation in their policy or decision making
- landowners – to inform their nature recovery planning, action and funding applications
- funding bodies – to support suitable nature recovery