

# Cross compliance checklist

## SMR 2 – Conservation of Wild Birds

The aim of SMR 2 rules is to protect wild birds; if you have land classified as a Special Protection Area (SPA), the aim is also to protect their eggs and nests. Many SPAs are also designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). If you have a Special Protection Area on your land there are rules that must be adhered to.

Answer each question below with a yes, no or n/a to help check if you have adhered to the rules. If the rules are applicable to you, and you are compliant, your answers to the questions should be yes.

- Have you ensured that you have **not** carried out activities that are likely to result in the disturbance or the deterioration of habitats affecting birds, such as:
  - Cutting/trimming hedges in the bird breeding and rearing season (1 March and 31 August) without an exemption (see GAEC 7)?
  - Cutting or lopping branches off trees in the bird breeding and rearing season (1 March and 31 August) without an exemption (see GAEC 7)?
  - Ploughing/reseeding rough grazing or other semi-natural areas unless approved as part of an environmental impact assessment (EIA) (see GAEC 6)?
  - Draining wetland areas unless approved as part of an environmental impact assessment (EIA)?
  - Removing/burning scrub and gorse in the bird breeding and rearing season (1 March and 31 August)?
  - Carrying out muirburn outside the burning season?



Picture above: Hen Harrier

- Have you obtained Scottish Natural Heritage's (SNH) consent in writing before carrying out, causing or permitting any specified operation listed in your SSSI legal document?

*Note: Lists of specified operations are referred to as Operations Requiring Consent (ORC) or are listed within a special nature conservation order. Further details can be found on SNH's website.*

- Have you complied with all management notices served by SNH or the terms of any restoration order served by a court relevant to the purpose of the SPA?

*Note: You must not intentionally or recklessly cause damage or destruction of the special interest or disturbance of the fauna, except if you have planning permissions or consent to carry out the work, or it is an emergency operation.*