

EC Directive 79/409 on the Conservation of Wild Birds

CITATION FOR SPECIAL PROTECTION AREA (SPA)

**CANNA & SANDAY
(UK9001431)**

INCLUDING MARINE EXTENSION

Site Description:

The island of Canna is the most western of the Small Isles in the Inner Hebrides. The site also includes part of the smaller island of Sanday, which is connected to Canna at low tide. The coastline of Canna consists mainly of steep cliffs capped by a ridge of wet heath and blanket bog. Sanday and the more low-lying areas of Canna support a varied range of coastal grassland and heath communities.

The boundary of the Special Protection Area overlaps with the boundary of Canna and Sanday SSSI, and the seaward extension extends approximately 1 km into the marine environment to include the seabed, water column and surface.

Qualifying Interest (N.B. All figures relate to numbers at the time of classification):

Canna and Sanday SPA qualifies under **Article 4.2** by regularly supporting **in excess of 20,000 individual seabirds**. It regularly supports 21,000 seabirds including nationally important populations of the following species: European shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* (1,000 pairs; 3% of GB population), herring gull *Larus argentatus* (1,300 pairs, 0.8% of GB population), black-legged kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla* (930 pairs, 0.1% of GB population), common guillemot *Uria aalge* (5,800 individuals, 0.4% of GB population) and Atlantic puffin *Fratercula arctica* (1,200 individuals, 0.1% of GB population).

Area: 6,566.80 Ha

National Grid Reference: NG 250060

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Classified on 20th February 1998, with marine extension classified on 25th September 2009

**Scottish Natural Heritage
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