

CITATION FOR SPECIAL PROTECTION AREA (SPA)

**NORTH CAITHNESS CLIFFS
(UK9001181)**

WITH MARINE EXTENSION

Site Description:

North Caithness Cliffs SPA is of special nature conservation and scientific importance within Britain and the European Community for supporting very large populations of breeding seabirds. The site overlaps either partly or wholly with Duncansby Head SSSI, Stroma SSSI, Dunnet Head SSSI, Holborn Head SSSI, and Red Point Coast SSSI. The seaward extension extends approximately 2km 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 except where amended by the 2001 SPA Review):

North Caithness Cliffs SPA qualifies under **Article 4.1** by regularly supporting populations of European importance of the **Annex 1** species: **peregrine** *Falco peregrinus* (6 pairs, 0.5% of the GB population).

North Caithness Cliffs SPA further qualifies under **Article 4.2** by regularly supporting populations of European importance of the **migratory** species: **common guillemot** *Uria aalge* (38,300 individuals, 1% of the North Atlantic biogeographic population).

North Caithness Cliffs SPA also qualifies under **Article 4.2** by regularly supporting **in excess of 20,000 individual seabirds**. The site regularly supports 110,000 seabirds including nationally important populations of the following species: **Northern fulmar** *Fulmarus glacialis* (14,700 pairs; 3% of the GB population); **black-legged kittiwake** *Rissa tridactyla* (13,100 pairs, 3% of the GB population); **common guillemot** (38,300 individuals, 4% of the GB population); **razorbill** *Alca torda* (4,000 individuals, 3% of the GB population) and **Atlantic puffin** *Fratercula arctica* (1,750 pairs, over 10% of the minimum qualifying assemblage of 20,000 individuals)

Area 14,621.14 ha

National Grid References: ND393678 to ND402735; ND216751 to ND206713; ND107707 to ND072710; NC957662 to NC898659; ND350780.

OS 1:50,000 sheet – 10,11,12

Classified on 16th August 1996, with marine extension classified on 25th September 2009

**Scottish Natural Heritage
September 2009**