

EC Directive 79/409 on the Conservation of Wild Birds

CITATION FOR SPECIAL PROTECTION AREA (SPA)

**NOSS
(UK9002081)**

INCLUDING MARINE EXTENSION

Site description:

Noss SPA is an offshore island lying 5 km east of Lerwick, Shetland. It supports breeding seabirds on cliffs and also on inland heathlands and grasslands.

The boundary of the SPA overlaps that of the Noss SSSI and National Nature Reserve and the seaward extension extends approximately 2 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 except where amended by the 2001 SPA Review):

Noss qualifies as a Special Protection Area under **Article 4.2** of the EC Wild Birds Directive by regularly supporting populations of European importance of the migratory species: **Northern gannet** *Morus bassanus* (6,860 pairs, 3% of the western European breeding population); **great skua** *Stercorarius skua* (420 pairs, 5% of EC, and 3% of western European) and **common guillemots** *Uria aalge* (38,970 individuals 3% of EC and 1% of western European).

The site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** by regularly supporting **in excess of 20,000 individual seabirds**. It regularly supports 35,000 seabirds including, in addition to the species listed above, nationally important populations of the following species: **Northern fulmar** *Fulmarus glacialis* (6,350 pairs, 1% of the GB population) **black-legged kittiwakes** *Rissa tridactyla* (7,020 pairs, 1% of the GB population) and **Atlantic puffin** (2,348 individuals, over 10% of the minimum qualifying assemblage of 20,000 individuals).

Area: 3,338.34ha

National Grid Reference: HU545444

OS sheet 1:50,000 - 4

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

**Scottish Natural Heritage
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