

EC Directive 79/409 on the Conservation of Wild Birds

CITATION FOR SPECIAL PROTECTION AREA (SPA)

**BUCHAN NESS TO COLLIESTON COAST
(UK9002491)**

INCLUDING MARINE EXTENSION

Site Description:

Buchan Ness to Collieston Coast SPA is a stretch of south-east facing cliff in Aberdeenshire, Scotland. The 15 km stretch of cliffs, formed of granite, quartzite and other rocks, runs south of Peterhead, broken only by the sandy beach of Cruden Bay. The varied coastal vegetation on the ledges and the cliff tops includes maritime heath, grassland and brackish flushes.

The boundary of the SPA follows the boundaries of Bullers of Buchan Coast SSSI and Collieston to Whinnyfold Coast SSSI, 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):

Buchan Ness to Collieston Coast SPA qualifies under **Article 4.2** by regularly supporting **in excess of 20,000 individual seabirds**. It regularly supports 95,000 seabirds including nationally important populations of the following species: **black-legged kittiwake** *Rissa tridactyla* (30,452 pairs, 6.2% of the GB population), **common guillemot** *Uria aalge* (8,640 pairs, 1.2% of GB population), **herring gull** *Larus argentatus* (4,292 pairs, 2.7% of the GB population), **European shag** *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* (1,045 pairs, 2.7% of the GB population) and **Northern fulmar** *Fulmarus glacialis* (1,765 pairs, 0.3% of the GB population).

Area: 5,400.94 Ha

National Grid References: NK144440 to NK046255

OS sheet 1:50,000 – 30

Classified 30th March 1998, with marine extension classified on 25th September 2009

**Scottish Natural Heritage
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