

EC Directive 79/409 on the Conservation of Wild Birds
CITATION FOR SPECIAL PROTECTION AREA (SPA)

**FAIR ISLE
(UK9002091)**

INCLUDING MARINE EXTENSION

Site Description:

Fair Isle is an Old Red Sandstone island, the most southerly of the Shetland group, lying halfway between Mainland and Orkney. It has a rocky, cliff coastline with adjacent coastal waters, heather moorland, acidic grassland, maritime grassland and crofting in-bye.

The boundary of Fair Isle SPA is coincident with Fair Isle SSSI. 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):

Fair Isle SPA qualifies under **Article 4.1** by regularly supporting populations of European importance of the **Annex 1** species: **Fair Isle wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes fridariensis* (33 territorial males, 100% of the GB population) and **Arctic tern** *Sterna paradisaea* (1100 pairs, 1% of the GB population).

Fair Isle SPA further qualifies under **Article 4.2** by regularly supporting populations of European importance of the **migratory** species: **common guillemot** *Uria aalge* (32,300 individuals, 1.4% of the north Atlantic biogeographic population).

Fair Isle SPA also qualifies under **Article 4.2** by regularly supporting **in excess of 20,000 individual seabirds**. It regularly supports 180,000 seabirds including nationally important populations of the following species: Atlantic puffin *Fratercula arctica* (23,000 individuals, 2% of the GB population), razorbill *Alca torda* (3,400 individuals, 2% of the GB population), black-legged kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla* (18,160 pairs, 4% of the GB population), great skua *Stercorarius skua* (110 pairs, 1% of the GB population), Arctic skua *Stercorarius parasiticus* (110 pairs, 3% of the GB population), European shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* (1,100 pairs, 3% of the GB population), Northern gannet *Morus bassanus* (1,166 pairs, 0.6% of the GB population), Northern fulmar *Fulmaris glacialis* (35,210 pairs, 7% of the GB population), common guillemot *Uria aalge* (32,300 individuals, 3% of the GB population), and Arctic tern *Sterna paradisaea* (1100 pairs).

Area: 6,824.40 Ha
National Grid Reference: HY 750850
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Classified on 16th December 1994, with marine extension classified on 25th September 2009

**Scottish Natural Heritage
September 2009**