

EC Directive 79/409 on the Conservation of Wild Birds

CITATION FOR SPECIAL PROTECTION AREA (SPA)

**FOULA
(UK9002061)**

INCLUDING MARINE EXTENSION

Site Description:

Foula is the most westerly of the Shetland Islands which are situated to the north of the Scottish mainland and Orkney. It lies 20 km west of Shetland Mainland. Foula SPA consists of a rocky coastline, large areas of mire, and adjacent coastal waters which support internationally important breeding populations of seabirds.

The boundary of the Special Protection Area overlaps with the boundary of Foula SSSI and Foula 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):

Foula SPA qualifies under **Article 4.1** by regularly supporting populations of European importance of the **Annex 1** species: **Arctic tern** *Sterna paradisaea* (up to 1,500 pairs, 2% of GB); **Leach's storm-petrel** *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* (50 pairs, <0.1% of the GB population); and **red-throated diver** *Gavia stellaria* (11 pairs in 1994, 1.2% of the GB population).

Foula SPA further qualifies under **Article 4.2** by regularly supporting populations of European importance of the **migratory** species: **great skua** *Stercorarius skua* (2,270 pairs, 17% of world biogeographic population), **common guillemot** *Uria aalge* (37,500 individuals, 0.8% of the North Atlantic biogeographic population); **Atlantic puffin** *Fratercula arctica grabae* (48,000 pairs, 5% of the total *F.a.grabae* biogeographic population); and **European shag** *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* (2,400 pairs, 1.9% of the North Europe biogeographic population).

SPA also qualifies under **Article 4.2** by regularly supporting **in excess of 20,000 individual seabirds**. It regularly supports 250,000 seabirds including nationally important populations of the following species: black-legged kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla* (3,840 pairs, 0.8% of the GB population); razorbill *Alca torda* (6,200 individuals, 4% of the GB population); Arctic skua *Stercorarius parasiticus* (133 pairs, 4% of the GB population); Northern fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis* (46,800 pairs, 9% of the GB population); Atlantic puffin (48,000 pairs, 11% of the GB population); common guillemot (37,500 individuals, 4% of the GB population); great skua (2,270 pairs, 29% of the GB population); European shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* (2,400 pairs, 7% of the GB population); Leach's storm-petrel (50 pairs); and Arctic tern (1,500 pairs).

Area: 7,985.49 Ha
National Grid Ref.: HT 960390
OS Sheet 1:50,000 - 4

Classified on 27th November 1995, with marine extension classified on 25th
September 2009

Scottish Natural Heritage
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