

EC Directive 79/409 on the Conservation of Wild Birds

CITATION FOR SPECIAL PROTECTION AREA (SPA)

**MARWICK HEAD
(UK9002121)**

INCLUDING MARINE EXTENSION

Site Description:

The Marwick Head Special Protection Area is a 2 km stretch of sea cliffs, and adjacent coastal waters, along the west coast of Orkney Mainland. The cliffs support large colonies of breeding seabirds.

The boundary of the Special Protection Area overlaps the boundary of Marwick Head SSSI, and the seaward extension extends approximately 1 km into the marine environment to include the seabed, water column and surface.

Qualifying Interest:

Marwick Head qualifies under **Article 4.2** by regularly supporting populations of European importance of the **migratory** species: **common guillemot** *Uria aalge* (37,700 individuals 1.1% of the western European biogeographic population).

Marwick Head SPA also qualifies under **Article 4.2** by regularly supporting **in excess of 20,000 individual seabirds**. It regularly supports 75,000 seabirds including nationally important populations of the following species: **black-legged kittiwake** *Rissa tridactyla* (7,700 pairs, 2% of the GB population) and **common guillemot** (37,700 individuals, 4% of the GB population).

Area: 475.58 Ha

Grid ref: HY226257

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Classified on 16th December 1994, with marine extension classified on 25th September 2009

**Scottish Natural Heritage
September 2009**