

EC Directive 79/409 on the Conservation of Wild Birds

CITATION FOR SPECIAL PROTECTION AREA (SPA)

**NORTH COLONSAY AND WESTERN CLIFFS
(UK9003171)**

INCLUDING MARINE EXTENSION

Site Description:

North Colonsay and Western Cliffs SPA covers an area of rocky coast, cliffs, and maritime heath on the island of Colonsay in Argyll, Scotland. It supports the northernmost stable population of chough in Europe, and is particularly significant to the maintenance of the breeding range of the chough in Britain and the EC.

The SPA overlaps the boundaries of the North Colonsay SSSI and the West Colonsay Seabird Cliffs SSSI, and the seaward extension extends approximately 1 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):

North Colonsay and Western Cliffs SPA qualifies under **Article 4.1** by regularly supporting populations of European importance of the **Annex 1** species: **chough** *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax* (6-7 pairs, 2% of the GB population; in 1998, 18 wintering individuals, 2.6% of the GB population).

North Colonsay and Western Cliffs SPA also qualifies under **Article 4.2** by regularly supporting **in excess of 20,000 individual seabirds**. The site regularly supports 30,000 seabirds including nationally important populations of the following species: **black-legged kittiwake** *Rissa tridactyla* (4,512 pairs, 0.9% of the GB population); and **common guillemot** *Uria aalge* (6,656 pairs, 0.9% of the GB population).

Area: 3,295.95 ha

National Grid References: NR 415985, NR 370970

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Classified on 24th March 1997, with marine extension classified on 25th September 2009

**Scottish Natural Heritage
September 2009**