

## CITATION

**MULL OF GALLOWAY  
SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST**  
Dumfries and Galloway

Site code: 1213

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: NX 115315

OS 1:50,000 SHEET NO: Landranger Series 82  
1:25,000 SHEET NO: Explorer Series 309

AREA: 137.17 hectares

## NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES

Biological:	Coastlands:	Maritime cliff
Biological:	Vascular plants:	Vascular plant assemblage
Biological:	Birds:	Fulmar <i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>
Biological:	Birds:	Kittiwake <i>Rissa tridactyla</i>
Biological:	Birds:	Razorbill <i>Alca torda</i>

## DESCRIPTION:

The Mull of Galloway is a coastal site lying 8km south of Drummore and extends over 11km of coast. It is the best example of maritime cliff in Wigtown District, containing excellent examples of coastal plant communities and sizeable seabird colonies.

The site has large areas of sea-cliff heath and sea-cliff grassland with an extensive range of important plant species. These include large areas of spring squill *Scilla verna*, bloody crane's-bill *Geranium sanguineum*, thrift *Armeria maritima* and sea campion *Silene uniflora*. There are also areas of low growing juniper *Juniperus communis* fringing the cliff-tops, as well as base (lime)-rich flushes, and rock-face vegetation. The following species are important because they are close to or at the northern limits e.g. rock sea-lavender *Limonium binervosum*, golden-samphire *Inula crithmoides*, small restharrow *Ononis reclinata* or the southern limits of their British range e.g. Scots lovage *Ligusticum scoticum*. Small restharrow occurs here at one of a very few UK sites.

The cliffs contain the largest breeding colonies of seabirds on the mainland of Dumfries & Galloway and include fulmar, shag, kittiwake, guillemot and razorbill, with smaller numbers of other species such as puffin.

Parts of the site are regularly used by grey seals as haul-outs (resting places) and, although not a notified feature, do bring added interest to the site.

## NOTIFICATION HISTORY

First notified under the National Parks & Access to the Countryside Act 1949: 1962 and 1974.

Re-notified under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981: 19 March 1987 with a 65.57 ha decrease in area.

Notification reviewed under the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004: 3 July 2009.

## REMARKS

Measured area of site corrected (from 104.4 ha).

Mull of Galloway SSSI is also designated as Mull of Galloway Special Area of Conservation (SAC) for the European habitat: Vegetated sea cliffs.

Part of Mull of Galloway SSSI (between Mean High Water Springs and Mean Low Water Springs) is also part of Luce Bay and Sands SAC designated for the European habitats and species listed below.

Habitats: Coastal dune heathland  
Shifting dunes  
Dune grassland  
Shallow inlets and bays  
Intertidal mudflats and sandflats  
Reefs  
Subtidal sandbanks  
Shifting dunes with marram

Species: Great crested newt *Triturus cristatus*