

CITATION

**BASS ROCK
SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST
East Lothian**

Site code: 155

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: NT 602873

OS 1:50,000 SHEET NO: Landranger series 67
1:25,000 SHEET NO: Explorer series 351

AREA: 7.61 hectares

NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES

**Biological: Birds: Northern gannet (*Morus bassanus*),
breeding
Birds: Seabird colony, breeding**

DESCRIPTION:

The Bass Rock is the remnant of a volcanic plug lying 2km off the East Lothian coast, approximately 5km north-east of North Berwick. Rising to 107 metres above sea level, this rocky island supports the largest single-rock northern gannet colony in the world.

The island supports a number of seabird species but the northern gannet *Morus bassanus* colony is by far the largest component. Numbering over 48 000 pairs in 2004, it is of international importance containing about 22% of the total UK breeding population and a significant proportion of the world population.

Guillemot *Uria aalge*, razorbill *Alca torda*, puffin *Fratercula arctica*, fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*, shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*, kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*, herring gull *Larus argentatus*, lesser black-backed gull *Larus fuscus* and greater black-backed gull *Larus marinus* also breed on the island in small numbers.

NOTIFICATION HISTORY

First notified under the 1949 Act: 1952

Re-notified under the 1981 Act: 15 August 1983

Notification reviewed under the 2004 Act: 31 March 2010

REMARKS

Measured area of site corrected (from 7.7ha).

Bass Rock SSSI is designated as part of Forth Islands Special Protection Area (SPA) for the birds listed below.

Birds Arctic tern *Sterna paradisaea*
Common tern *Sterna hirundo*
Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*
Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*
Northern Gannet *Morus bassanus*
Guillemot *Uria aalge*
Herring gull *Larus argentatus*
Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*
Lesser black-backed gull *Larus fuscus*
Puffin *Fratercula arctica*
Razorbill *Alca torda*
Roseate tern *Sterna dougallii*
Sandwich tern *Sterna sandvicensis*
Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*
Breeding seabird assemblage